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& Trijicon RMR



Optics

THE MINI-REFLEX REVOLUTION

Ready



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DECEMBER 2015
VOLUME 163, No. 12

NRA EXPERTS
IN THE
FIELD

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
129th Year of Publication

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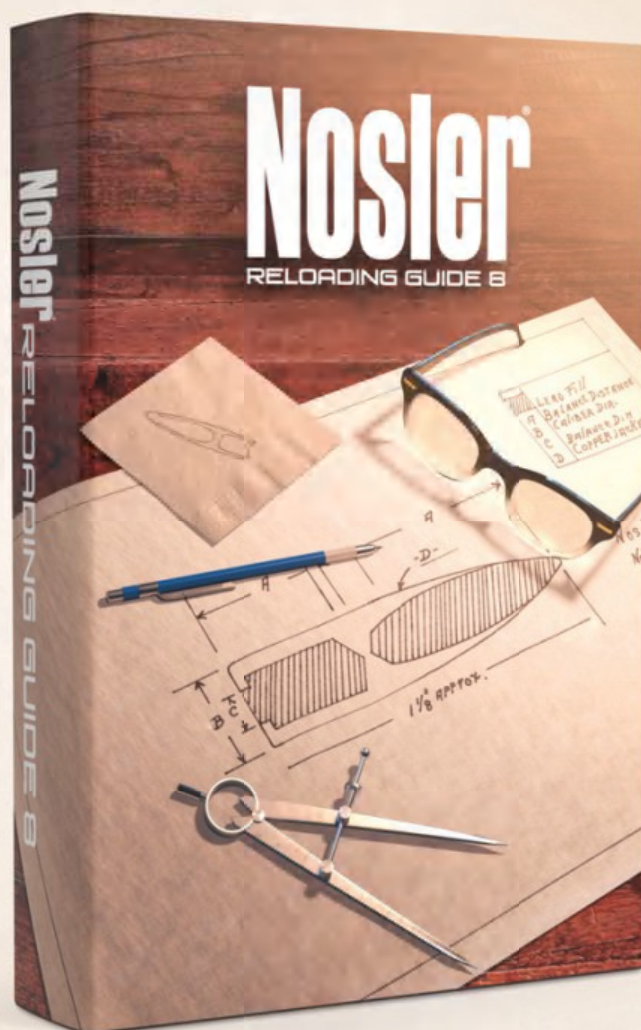
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UP FRONT



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Whitworth Rifle

THE COVER: Not long ago, massive red-dot or reflex sights appeared only on competition handguns—not anymore. Nowadays, though, red-dots are getting smaller, and handgun makers are offering guns that are optics-ready right out of the box. One such gun is the 9 mm Luger Smith & Wesson M&P Ported as made by the S&W Performance Center. It is paired here with a Trijicon RMR sight. For more on the mini-reflex revolution, turn to p. 48. Photo by Forrest MacCormack. Design by David J. Labrozzi.



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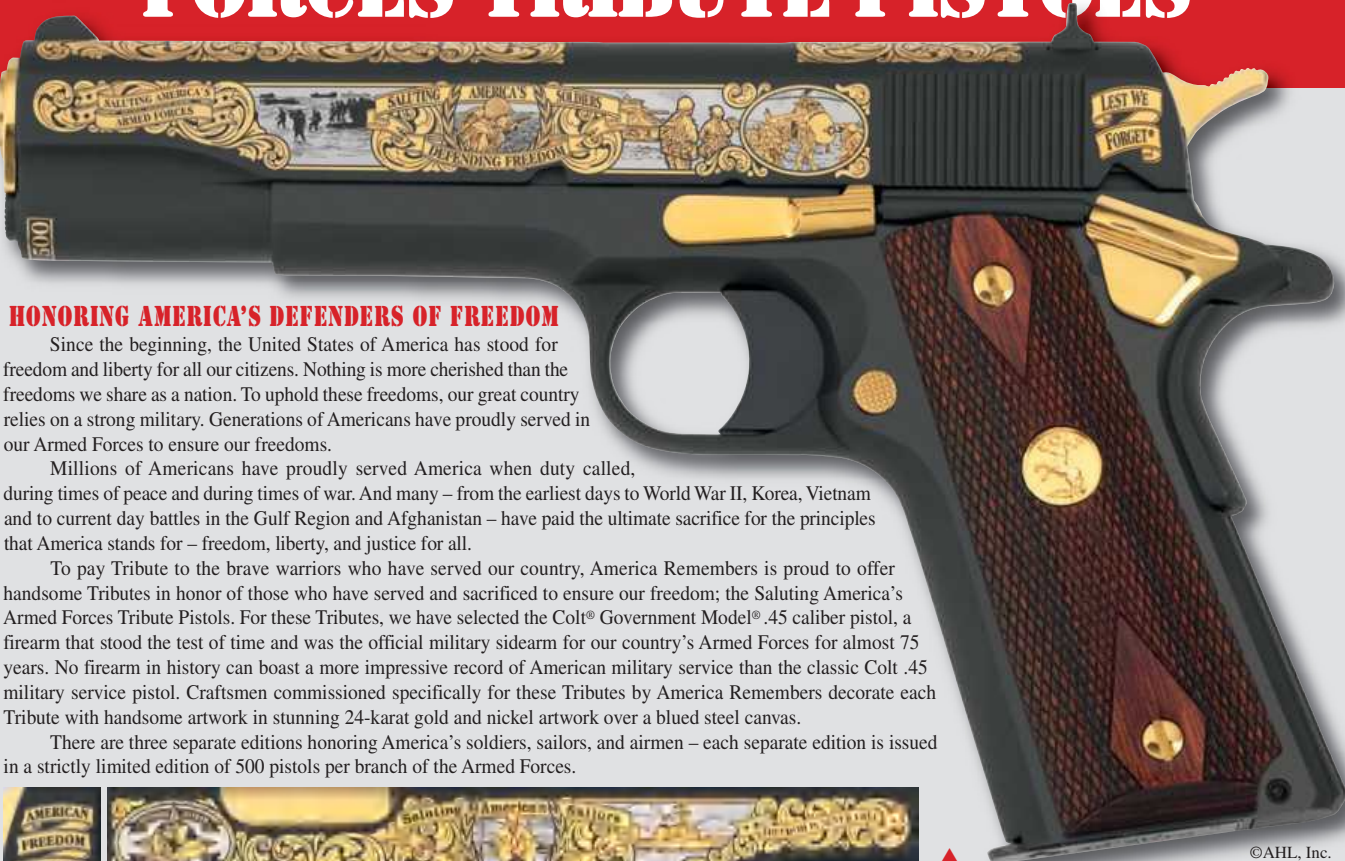
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American Rifleman (ISSN 0003-083X) is published monthly by the National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, (703) 267-1000, for the benefit of its members. Membership dues (U.S. and possessions) \$35 a year, \$85 for 3 years, \$125 for 5 years. \$3.75 per year is designated for a magazine subscription. For foreign postage add \$5 a year in Canada and \$10 elsewhere. For membership inquiries only, call (877) 672-2000. Copyright 2015, the National Rifle Association of America. All rights reserved except where expressly waived. Periodicals Postage paid at Fairfax, VA, and at additional mailing offices.

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SALUTING AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES TRIBUTE PISTOLS



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Since the beginning, the United States of America has stood for freedom and liberty for all our citizens. Nothing is more cherished than the freedoms we share as a nation. To uphold these freedoms, our great country relies on a strong military. Generations of Americans have proudly served in our Armed Forces to ensure our freedoms.

Millions of Americans have proudly served America when duty called, during times of peace and during times of war. And many – from the earliest days to World War II, Korea, Vietnam and to current day battles in the Gulf Region and Afghanistan – have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the principles that America stands for – freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

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The right side features banners reading, "American Freedom Tribute" and, "Freedom is Never Free", a reminder that Americans need to be ever vigilant in protecting our freedoms and there is always a price to pay to protect our cherished freedoms. Each Armed Forces Tribute also features artwork unique to the branch honored (Soldiers, Sailors, or Airmen) depicting scenes related to the branch. (Sailor Edition shown above.)

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THE KEEFE REPORT

Reflex sights are not new, nor are battery-powered red-dot sights, but as they have become miniaturized and lost their tubes, they have also become increasingly practical for handguns meant for more than just competition. And now, pistol makers have created an entirely “optics ready” category without the need for custom gunsmithing to attach such sights. There were a number of challenges—including illumination, battery life, size and mounting considerations—that had to be solved before the “Mini-Reflex Revolution” (p. 48) could begin.

The first of the tubeless, battery-powered reflex sights I examined caused me to comment, “Hmm, it’s like a Nydar with batteries.” Don’t know what a Nydar is? Let me take you back to the April 1946 issue and the words of Edwards Brown, Jr.: “We have recently received some letters asking us about the Nydar reflector sight ... made by the Swain Nelson Company, of Glenview, Illinois. At the present time the Nydar sight is being made for shotguns only, but the Swain Nelson representatives inform us that they plan to produce them for rifles and pistols as well. We hope to get a look at these two latter developments in the near future.” But the Nydar, dependent on available light, never made it as a practical handgun sight. For more on the Nydar, and other articles documenting the evolution of the reflex sight, go to americanrifleman.org/reddot.

The first battery-powered dot sight (they weren’t red yet) tested in these pages was the Oxford Lightning Illuminated Gunsight in the January 1969 issue (above), and it was, charitably, a monstrosity. The size of a riflescope with the addition of a bolted on penlight-like protuberance (it took “AA penlight batteries”), to get it on a pistol it had to be mounted using scope rings and a Bushnell M1911 grip replacement mount that made it look like something Han Solo would use in a Mos Eisley cantina. Despite its ungainliness, here is what the staff had to say: “On the field of vision ‘floats’ the spot of light, showing with clear contrast against the target. The sighting spot is visible



in light so poor that conventional metallic sights cannot be defined. ... Consequently, the problem of trying to see in clear focus both a front sight and a rear sight as well as the target, as with iron sights, is not present. This is a commendable and unusual approach to overcoming a sighting hindrance that is particularly vexatious to those over 30 years of age.”


We tested our first Aimpoint in May 1978—powered by a red LED—that soon became the dominant optical sight for NRA Bullseye and Action Pistol. But it was still a large unit, and mounting took the form of rails and cantilevers.

The first “mini” red dot I used was the British-made EPC tested in 1992. The little unit, with its claustrophobic field of view, could run 18 whole hours on a couple of hearing aid batteries. The Electro Prismatic Collimators was small, but the problem of how to mount it still had not been solved. The caption is classic: “The EPC Subminiature Sight solves the auto-loader mounting problem; it simply attaches to the slide with glue.” There were different mounting plates that more or less conformed to the slide surfaces of popular handguns. “[O]ne of these was selected by trial and error and bonded to a cleaned surface of the gun with a two-part adhesive used in the aerospace industry. The sight itself is glued to the mount strip.”

More than two decades later, the gun to which we glued the EPC, a Stainless Colt Commander in our reference collection, still bears the stains of “aerospace industry adhesive.” I don’t know what it was but am grateful I did not get it on my skin.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Keefe, III



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The Armed Citizen®



Score two for one armed citizen. A Dayton, Ohio, woman who has been targeted by criminals multiple times has used a gun to protect herself twice. The latest incident occurred in September, when the 46-year-old fatally shot a man who broke into her home in the wee hours of the morning. At about 3 a.m. one day, she called 911 to report that someone had tried breaking in through a first-floor window. Security bars there kept him out; however, the man then climbed to the second story and broke through another window. The woman hid in the bathroom and shot the intruder when he came in after her. The wounded man jumped from the second story and fled, but he was found dead nearby. The same homeowner wounded a home invader in 2013. An investigation of the latest case is ongoing. (*Dayton Daily News*, Dayton, Ohio, 9/10/15)

Luck ran out for a thief who was involved in a spree of car burglaries in Fayetteville, Ark. One would-be victim held the suspect at gunpoint after the armed citizen caught the bad guy in the act of breaking into his car. The suspect later confessed to multiple vehicle break-ins in the area. (KNWA, Fayetteville, Ark., 9/7/15)

Pierre Phurcien has carried concealed for the past eight years. Recently, that practice came in handy when a would-be thief entered the Lehigh Acres, Fla., grocery store Phurcien owns. "I saw a guy with a mask, and I was thinking it was a kid playing," Phurcien told media afterward. Pretty soon, he found out it was no game. "He came right here, and he pulled a gun and said, 'Give me the money,'" Phurcien said. "Then I pulled my gun, and ... he starts to run away." Lee County deputies were still looking for the suspect. (NBC2, Fort Myers, Fla., 9/14/15)

Two Nashville, Tenn., football fans were bidding each other farewell outside the home where they had just watched the Titans game on TV. As they were talking, a Jeep Cherokee pulled up in front of the house. One man got out of the Jeep, pointed a gun at the victims and demanded their valuables. An accomplice collected the goods and drove off in the Jeep. The gunman, meanwhile, had grabbed the car keys from one of the victims and was getting into that car to flee. One of the victims

then pulled his own gun and told the robber to stop. The bad guy opened fire, but the victim got off a fatal shot in self-defense. Police are still looking for the man who drove off in the Jeep and any other passengers. (*The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tenn., 8/24/15)

Quick thinking by a Kwik Shop clerk prevented a robbery. A masked man with a gun entered the convenience store in Wauconda, Ill., and demanded money from the clerk and a customer. The employee, though, retrieved a gun that was in the store for defensive purposes and shot the intruder multiple times. Although authorities took the suspect to a medical center for treatment, the wounds proved to be fatal. The robber was later identified as a parolee who had several robbery and drug convictions in his past. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, Chicago, Ill., 8/25/15)

A Hartford, Conn., man with a licensed handgun got the better of two home invasion suspects. The homeowner was returning to his house late one night. As he walked to the door, he was approached by two

strangers, one of whom had a gun. The bad guys forced the man to open the door. After all three got inside, a struggle ensued, according to police Sgt. Reginald Early. During the scuffle, the homeowner grabbed his firearm from where it was stored and shot both suspects. One was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital; the other arrived at the medical facility on his own. Police said the resident won't be charged as he was protecting himself and his family. (*Hartford Courant*, Hartford, Conn., 9/6/15)

When Ontario, Calif., police responded to a call about a man with a gun, they were surprised to find an elderly homeowner who was holding a suspect at gunpoint. The man and his wife had been awakened one night by the sound of someone trying to break into their home. The homeowner grabbed his shotgun and chased the would-be burglar across the street. When the bad guy turned and threatened him, the older man fired a shot, prompting someone to call 911. The suspect was held at gunpoint until police arrived. (*Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, Ontario, Calif., 9/1/15) 

If you have a firsthand "Armed Citizen" experience, call NRA-ILA PR/Communications at (703) 267-1193.

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings via e-mail to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. **View this column online at nrapublications.org.**



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By Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President



Obama, Hillary Embrace Gun Confiscation

President Barack Obama once again embraced massive universal gun confiscation from innocent Americans as his answer to the isolated murderous acts of deranged mass killers. That call for gun confiscation was echoed by presidential candidate Hillary Clinton who said it is “worth considering” a national program modeled on Australia’s seizure of firearms from licensed gun-owners.

Their demand that law-abiding Americans be disarmed of their property and their individual liberty came immediately following the unspeakable act of a copy-cat loser who murdered nine students at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore., on Oct. 1, 2015. The murderer asked his victims if they were Christians, then killed them.

ours—Great Britain, Australia, countries like ours. So we know there are ways to prevent it,” he said.

In parroting this line, the media outlets leave out the details of what happened in those once-free nations: the massive taking and destruction of firearms from law-abiding gun owners by government. In 1996-97, after a mass murder in Australia, *licensed* gun owners were forced to give up their *registered* pump-action and semi-automatic shotguns and semi-automatic rifles for government destruction. Every model of pump-action and semi-automatic shotgun. Every model of semi-automatic rifle. Seized. Chopped. Burned and melted.

For what? To assuage an insane notion of collective guilt to impose a

and bus-stop benches.”

That “buyback” of all long guns was simply the first round of confiscations, falsely heralded as the means to end violence. In 2000, a second wave of confiscations took place with government seizing many models of registered handguns from licensed owners in the wake of another mass murder—and it isn’t over yet.

As the *Melbourne Weekly Times* reported in June 2015, “Government authorities are moving quickly to restrict the sale of all lever-action firearms in Australia ... which could lead to a buy-back of the thousands of lever-actions already owned by Australian shooters.” It will never end until the last firearm is removed from private hands.

In a Jan. 16, 2013, op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, titled “I Went After Guns, Obama Can Too,” former Australian Prime Minister John Howard ultimately defined the insanity of his government’s action:

“Penalizing decent, law-abiding citizens because of the criminal behavior of others seemed unfair, ... yet I felt there was no alternative.”

Howard reckoned that the guns the government took from those “decent, law-abiding citizens” and destroyed would be “the equivalent of 40 million guns in the United States.”

This is Obama’s demand for an Australian model on our soil.

The president’s end game has been embraced as mainstream in the media. Take the Oct. 4, 2015 *Washington Post* editorial—headlined “A gun-free society”—in which the paper’s editorial page editor, Fred Hiatt, declared: “Wouldn’t it make sense to learn from other developed nations, which believe that only the military and law enforcers, when necessary, should be armed. ...”

Hiatt seeks a “cultural shift,” saying,



The Democratic candidates would alter the makeup of the Supreme Court with the goal of overturning landmark decisions on the Second Amendment.

The killer had one thing in common with the last killer and the ones before him: he admired other mass-murderers and craved public attention.

Yet in Obama’s and Clinton’s upside-down world, the blame lies with the innocent—you and me.

In an unseemly “politicized” reaction to this horrendous crime, Obama repeated his big-lie mantra, saying: “The United States of America is the one advanced nation on Earth in which we do not have sufficient common-sense gun-safety laws—even in the face of repeated mass killings. ...”

“We know that other countries, in response to one mass shooting, have been able to craft laws that almost eliminate mass shootings. Friends of ours, allies of

national gun ban. The same agenda that Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton all espouse. The one that begins with “universal” background checks—which equals registration of guns and owners—and ultimately ends with gutting the Second Amendment.

Every time the Obama-Clinton axis lauds Australia’s theft of freedom from its law-abiding citizens, you must remind others of the defining comment from George’s Soros’ protégé, Rebecca Peters, who claimed credit for the Australian tyranny:

“The National Firearms Agreement recognized the inherent inappropriateness of these highly dangerous weapons and took away nearly 700,000 of them to be melted down into soup cans



Like us on Facebook at the National Rifle Association. View this column online at nrapublications.org.

"Australia was a pioneer nation, too, and gave up its guns. Societies change, populations evolve."

Then he levels this zinger, "The Supreme Court, which has misread the Second Amendment in its recent decisions, would have to revisit the issue. The court has corrected itself before, and if public opinion shifts it could correct itself again. If it did not, the Constitution would have to be amended."

That last gem is the key to this out-in-the-open demand for the end of American liberty. Presidential Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is explicit, saying, "We've got to go after this. And here again, the Supreme Court is wrong on the Second Amendment. And I am going to make that case every chance I get."

But Hillary is not alone. Virtually all of the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination are in lock step with Hillary and Obama.

They would alter the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court with the goal of overturning the landmark decisions that have recognized the sanctity of the Second Amendment in guaranteeing our right to keep and bear arms.

None of the coy and disingenuous words from billionaire Michael Bloomberg or the Brady Campaign—words like "gun safety," or "responsible gun-ownership," or "common-sense regulations"—should fool free Americans about the gun banners' intentions: ultimate confiscation of guns, as in Australia.

The Washington Post's Hiatt said it all:

"Maybe it's time to start using the words that the NRA has turned into unmentionables.

"Prohibition.

"Mass buyback.

"A gun-free society.

"Let's say that one again: A gun-free society," he wrote.

Those words are the call to action for you, me and the nation's 100 million decent, law-abiding gun owners in the coming elections.

As NRA members, we are in the vanguard in this full-blown fight to preserve freedom. We must organize as never before and stand united in voting to save the Second Amendment in November 2016.

W. Lee Poirer



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president's column

By Allan D. Cors, President

Latest Anti-Gunner Tactic: Blame Law-abiding Gun Owners in Theft

"... [M]ost illegal guns are simply legal guns that have been stolen or sold second-hand. Since the supply source for the illegal market is legal owners, imposing greater accountability on legal owners will cut down the flow to the illegal market."

—Rebecca Peters

That definition of gun control—from the woman who fanned the fires for the 1996 confiscation and destruction of 700,000 registered shot-guns and rifles from law-abiding licensed owners in Australia—is now creeping into the Newspeak of journalists in our nation under the notion of "stolen guns."

A ranting blogger who deserves to remain anonymous nailed it: "The legal, responsible gun owner is mainly responsible for arming up the gangs of America." As crazy as this sounds, this new "big lie" is gaining traction in the mainstream media. "Stolen guns" is becoming a guilt trip applied to peaceable gun owners.

Numerous news stories tell the tale:

A *Chattanooga Times Free Press* piece—"ATF study: Criminals use stolen guns"—claims, "The majority of guns used by inner-city gang members in Chattanooga come from burglaries and car break-ins in surrounding counties."

Another—"Spike in firearm thefts putting guns in hands of criminals"—from KOMO-TV news in Seattle, reported that "more guns than ever are being stolen from homes, business and vehicles, putting firearms directly in the hands of criminals. And, law-enforcement officials say it's up to gun owners to stop that."

An Aug. 26, 2015, story from Georgia's WTOG-TV—"90 percent of violent crimes in Savannah involve stolen guns"—proclaims, "Police say the single greatest contributor to violent crime in Savannah includes everyone that owns a gun. ... [W]hen one of those guns gets stolen, chances are it will be used to commit a violent crime somewhere in the city."

Perhaps the most cogent example of this new theme was "Legal guns fuel criminal gunfire," published in September in the Raleigh, N.C., *News & Observer*.

Writer Ned Barnett begins, "Guns have blazed a bloody path through the news in recent weeks. ...

"For many gun rights supporters the answer to such mayhem is more guns. ...

"Their line is that if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns. But an Associated Press story that ran the day before the shooting on live TV raised a starkly different point. It said most guns used in crimes are stolen, but not from gun shops or pawn shops. They're stolen from homes and cars."

Barnett blustered, "The growing number of law-abiding Americans who feel compelled to arm themselves is feeding the flow to criminals. Perhaps the phrase should be revised: 'If guns are outlawed, outlaws would have a harder time finding and affording guns.'"

He cites as proof, "In Chicago, where gun violence is epidemic, authorities this year have seized close to 4,700 guns—nearly all of them stolen."

The only pro-gun-rights source quoted in his story says the blame lies not with victims of theft, but with the people who break into cars and then are put back on the street.

Barnett's retort is jaw-dropping:



"Long prison sentences for breaking into a car would be expensive and unfair, especially because there's no serious penalty for someone who leaves their Glock in the glove compartment and it gets into a criminal's hands."

Then he lays down another head-spinner, "The truth is more people legally arming themselves doesn't make us safer. It just provides more guns for criminals."

Claiming that "Gun owners are aware that the legal purchase of guns is the headwaters in the river of guns that flows to criminals," Barnett proposes "having gun owners be held responsible for their guns."

There is that gun-ban buzz word again, "responsibility." *Criminals*—not the victims—are responsible for crime.

All of this media focus on "stolen guns" is part of a big push for state and federal provisions making it a criminal act to fail to report theft or loss of a firearm. There are now eight states that have made failure to report a gun theft a crime. Along with this insanity, the state of California recently "reformed" its criminal statutes to reduce theft of a firearm to a misdemeanor.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), in line to lead his party in the Senate, has introduced legislation making failure to report a lost or stolen gun within 24 hours a federal felony punishable by five years in a federal prison. This from someone who ignores the truth and lies about federal laws dealing with armed criminals.

Schumer is one of the prime reasons that the coming 2016 elections are critical. If he ever becomes Senate majority leader, the gun-ban crowd's biggest champion will be in the ultimate seat of power. If that happens, if we lose our Second Amendment majority, gun owners will pay a heavy price.

Allan Cors

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INSPIRED BY PENDLETON

political report

By Chris W. Cox, NRA-ILA Executive Director



Using Victims to Advance the Anti-Gun Agenda

Anti-gun groups and politicians have long used tragedies to try to advance their agenda. When a tragic event occurs, we can always count on them to hold press conferences and put forth so-called “solutions”—which are no more than their gun control wish list—often before the facts are even known. Even worse, the “solutions” that they put forward would not have stopped or even been a deterrent to the crime in question.

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The shocking murders of two Virginia journalists while they were conducting a live television interview displayed this callous strategy. Within hours of the crime, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe demanded what he called “common-sense gun legislation,” specifically calling for “universal” background checks. But when asked by the press if the murderer had passed a background check, McAuliffe said he didn’t know.

In fact, at the time of McAuliffe’s

statement, the identity of the perpetrator was still unknown, as was his motive. The type of gun used and the shooter’s method of acquiring it were also unknown—it would take more than a day for that information to come out.

And McAuliffe wasn’t alone.

Barack Obama’s White House and Hillary Clinton weighed in the same day with similar calls for gun control, also before knowing the facts involved.

McAuliffe, Clinton and Obama chose to exploit a violent tragedy to push their political agenda, plain and simple. And they did it with the willing assistance of the anti-gun media, which refused to call them on it because that agenda fits their shared gun control narrative.

The next day, the facts came to light. The deranged individual bought his gun legally, months before he used it, through a federally licensed dealer. He passed a background check because he had no prior criminal record, nor had he been adjudicated mentally ill or committed to a mental institution. The fact is that no piece of legislation pushed by gun control advocates would have stopped him from committing this brutal crime.

McAuliffe knows this, as does Clinton. The White House even admitted—later—that gun control legislation, including so-called “universal” background checks, would not have stopped this. But to them, that’s beside the point. They will use any tragedy as an excuse to push their agenda—regardless of the facts involved. What’s most egregious about it is that by exploiting tragedy to push gun control, they deflect the conversation away from real solutions that would solve our nation’s pressing problems—like fixing our broken mental health system.

And it’s not just politicians who use this craven strategy. Anti-gun groups, such as Michael Bloomberg’s

Everytown for Gun Safety, use the tactic to advance their anti-gun agenda and even raise money. Immediately after a tragedy, they push emotional appeals to promote their cause. Unfortunately, they offer no real solutions to the problems of violence in our communities—just the same old rhetoric, devoid of common sense, logic or even the smallest connection to reality.

The list of mass shooters who passed background checks includes the most recent tragedies in Roanoke, Va., Lafayette, La., Chattanooga, Tenn., and Charleston, S.C. Although our government has spent more than \$1 billion on the national background check system over the past two decades, it still lacks the criminal and mental health records on which it’s supposed to rely.

Most people rightly believe that it’s inappropriate to use a tragedy to push a political agenda moments after a tragedy occurs. But that doesn’t stop, or even slow down, proponents of gun control. As a matter of fact, that exact strategy was laid out in their 2012 guide “Preventing ‘Gun Violence’ Through Effective Messaging.”

In that guide, anti-gun advocates are directed to immediately hit television, Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets with emotional pleas for more gun control as soon as tragedy strikes. Facts don’t matter; the only thing that matters is to advance their agenda.

If anti-gun politicians were really interested in solving problems, instead of using tragedies to push a political agenda, they would work to solve underlying issues. Of course, that would require them to admit that the “solutions” they prescribe are not solutions at all.

Chris W. Cox



IT DOES EXIST.

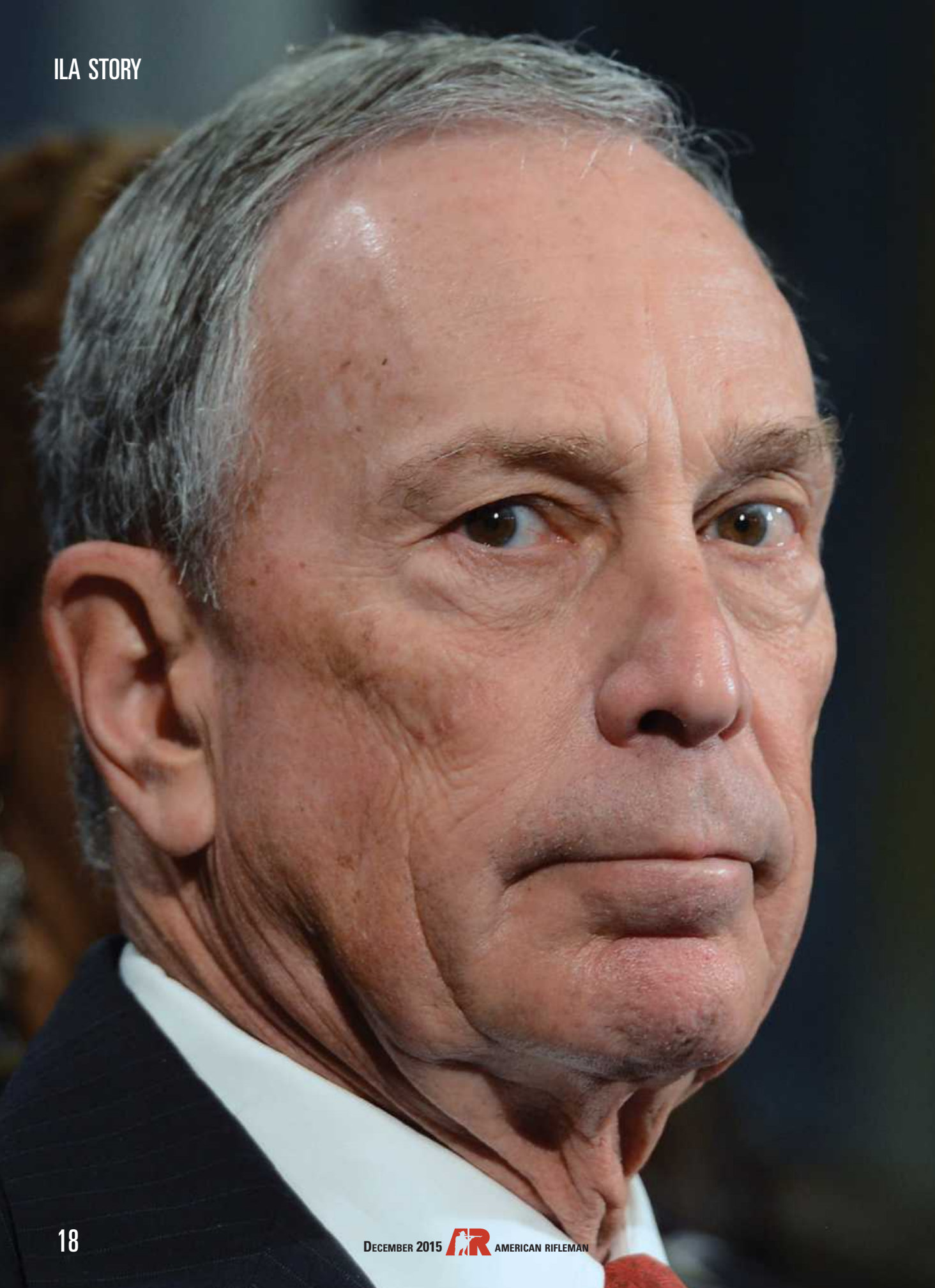


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By Chris W. Cox
NRA-ILA
Executive Director



State of Play

While the Presidential Primary Grabs Headlines, Hard Work Goes on in the States as Bloomberg Continues to Flex his Financial Muscle

The presidential election cycle keeps getting longer and more expensive. Nearly a year before Americans will finally cast their ballots, candidates already have come and gone, untold millions of dollars have been spent, and those in a crowded field of primary contenders are jockeying for media attention and name recognition.

On the Democratic side, the long-anticipated coronation of Hillary Clinton no longer seems so certain, as the FBI investigates whether her “unorthodox” email practices as secretary of state might have compromised sensitive national security information. Meanwhile, her declining poll numbers on honesty and trustworthiness have been worrying Democratic insiders. According to Quinnipiac University poll results released in August, “Liar” is the first word that comes to mind ... when voters think of Clinton.”

The Republican field remains crowded, with a diverse group fighting for the nomination. How long it will take for a clear leader to materialize is unknown.

What is at stake, however, is the very future of our nation.

When the final challengers from both parties emerge, we will provide all the information you need to make the right choices to ensure the continued strength of the Second Amendment. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, an anti-gun billionaire continues to cast an ominous shadow over American politics. Michael Bloomberg needs no introduction in these pages. Yet the degree to which he seeks to use his influence to undermine your rights cannot be overstated. Fellow dictatorial-minded moguls are urging him to run for president. Whether or not that happens, Bloomberg will be as involved in the political scene as any candidate. He has pledged his fortune to pursuing gun control, and in the motto of one of his many front groups, he will do “whatever it takes.” When you don’t have real grassroots support, money is what it takes in politics, and that alone ensures Bloomberg’s ability to attempt to exert his will.

Photo by Anthony Behar/Sipa USA/AP Images

Recently, I discussed how gun control proponents began retooling their legislative game plan in the wake of the stinging defeat Congress handed to Barack Obama's 2013 gun control agenda (see "The 'Security of a Free State'? Not If Bloomberg Has His Way" in the April 2015 issue of this magazine). As I mentioned in that article, they are looking to change the map one state at a time, hoping they will eventually achieve a tipping point that will allow them to pursue their ambitions on the federal level.

Even if you feel insulated in a pro-gun state for now, don't count on the status quo lasting forever. It takes work—difficult, unglamorous, little-noticed work—day in and day out at the state level to maintain our nation's heritage of freedom, and it takes work to enact the "fundamental transformation" the president has promised his followers. We at the NRA have known this for a long time. Now the opposition is getting wise. Count on them to take the battle to the states and seize the offensive. While media outlets remain distracted by the ongoing spectacle of the extended primary season, don't take your eyes off the legislative contests that are happening closer to home.

Not only is Bloomberg becoming smarter about arraying his forces, but his troops are showing more sophistication in marketing their prohibitionist agenda to the public. No longer do they speak of pursuing "gun control." Instead, they use the rhetoric of preventing "gun violence" (and violence is always attributed to the guns, never to the criminals who wield them) or what "responsible" gun ownership means. Besides using their mouthpieces in academia and the media, they exploit grieving survivors of violent crime, and they use them to ward off any criticism of their agenda or any level-headed discussion of the issues. Their objective is to obscure the issues. In case after case, none of the "solutions" presented would have made any difference.

Those "solutions," moreover, are not the gun control challenges of years past. Proposals to ban handguns are, for the most part, long gone, their fate sealed by the Supreme Court's historic *Heller* decision in 2008. Rather than push for gun bans, blatant registration schemes or confiscation programs, the gun control advocates of today are willing to settle for incremental victories.

But make no mistake, this is all part of a larger plan. Each measure that gets passed reinforces the false perception that guns *cause* violence and that more controls are needed on the law-abiding to rein in the lawless. What you and I call freedom, they refer to as loopholes. The burdens they would heap on lawful gun ownership are portrayed as "common sense" or "responsible" measures to "keep guns out of the wrong hands."

A few examples make the point. Bloomberg's gun control mothership—Everytown for Gun Safety—claims on its website, "Requiring a criminal background check for all gun sales is the single most effective policy for keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people and saving lives." Of course, they know that almost all of the perpetrators of the high-profile crimes they use to promote their policies successfully passed a background check. They also know that the more common types of thugs who have long records and roam the streets

with guns don't go through background checks to get them and *never will*.

But so-called "universal" background checks often poll well, because most respondents don't understand the issue. And, more to the point for Everytown, a truly universal background check system would set the stage for licensing and universal registration. It doesn't make sense to require background checks for private sales unless the authorities know who had the gun in the first place, so the lack of a registry will become just one more "loophole" that needs to be closed.

Another issue that's frequently invoked by gun control advocates


is keeping guns away from domestic abusers. Federal law, of course, already prohibits persons convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are the subject of a domestic violence restraining order from possessing or receiving a firearm. But that's not enough, Bloomberg's troops say. Don't wait for a hearing, they say. Don't limit the misdemeanors to violent offenses. Don't limit the relationships that are considered "domestic." And for crying out loud, they insist, seize the guns right away. Make the "abusers" disprove the allegations against them if they want their firearms returned.

Meanwhile, while they're blaming the gun, what is the system doing about perpetrators of actual abuse? Are they being charged with, much less convicted of, felonies? Are they subject to detention so they don't violate protective orders?

Also in this category are so-called "safe storage" laws. Who, after all, could argue with safe gun storage? No one. That is why laws aren't needed to ensure that it remains the nearly universal practice of responsible gun owners (who, of course, are the only targets of such laws). The people I know who own guns are good citizens, love their families and want to protect their investments in firearms. They don't need the threat of punishment to secure their guns appropriately when not being used.

But the point isn't safe storage. It's making the innocent gun owner responsible when a criminal wrongly uses a gun. It's perpetuating the premise that the *gun* in your home poses a threat to your neighbors, or their kids, even though *you* don't. It's making prospective gun owners weigh the potential for ruinous liability against the need to protect their families. In short, it's the usual tactic of making the law-abiding owner of the gun responsible for the wrongful acts of another.

These sorts of concepts can gain traction even in gun-friendly states. But the result is the same as with any sort of gun control. Bit by bit, gun owners are marginalized. Step by step, your rights disappear.

The news isn't all bad, of course. As always, we'll be hard at work pursuing our pro-gun agenda in the states: streamlining concealed-carry laws; expanding the scope of permits; strengthening your right to self-defense. While America is transfixed by the drama and theater of the early political primary season, battles for the Second Amendment will be joined in the states. We'll be doing our part. And with your continued support, we will win. 

Not only is Bloomberg becoming smarter about arraying his forces, but his troops are showing more sophistication in marketing their prohibitionist agenda.



RING of FREEDOM

Freedom's Future

By Wilson H. Phillips Jr., NRA Treasurer



No Need to Change Your Will Unless...

Making arrangements for the long-term management and distribution of your assets through a will, trust or other plan is a considerate way to provide for the future financial well-being of your loved ones and the causes you cherish.

As your circumstances change, it is important to keep your will and other plans up-to-date to reflect your current needs and wishes. Some common changes that may require you to update your plans are:

Your Family

Births, deaths, marriages and other changes in family are among the most common reasons for making revisions to wills, trusts and other plans.

Your Financial Circumstances

Past plans may no longer be appropriate or applicable due to changes in the value of your assets, any income they produce or other circumstances.

Your Gun Collection

You may have added to your gun collection and would like to distribute your most prized firearms to different heirs.

Your Executor

The person you originally named to settle your affairs may no longer be able to serve. If this is the case, you will want to name an alternate, otherwise, a court may name someone you neither know nor trust.

You Move

Your plans may have been drafted under the laws of your former state of residence. It is important to have them reviewed to make sure they are valid under the laws of the state of your current residence.

Your Charitable Interests

Just as other priorities may shift over time, your charitable interests may also change. After first providing for family and other loved ones, you may want to give to one or more charitable interests through your will or other estate plans.

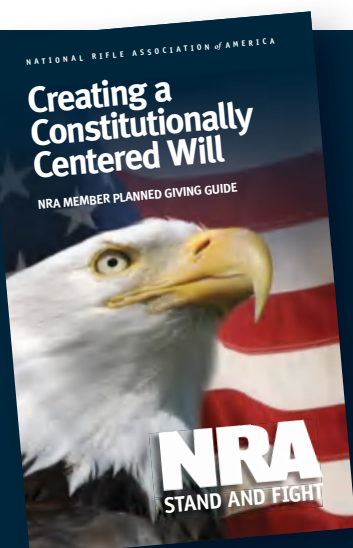
Now is a good time of year to talk with family and friends who are named in your estate plans. Share with them what you plan to do and educate them about where you keep important documents, how to contact your advisers, and what they need to do in case of your passing.

If you choose to leave a gift to the National Rifle Association, or any of its affiliated charities, share with your family why this cause is important to you and how to get in touch with the NRA Planned Giving offices. After you pass, our staff will work with your executor to ensure the gifting process goes smoothly.

Remember to consult with your advisers if you believe changes are in order. They will help make sure your entire will, trust or other plan is written to meet your wishes. NRA staff members can locate and provide the names of local attorneys who can assist in writing your estate plans.

To request your complimentary guide, please call the NRA's Planned Giving Department at (877) NRA-GIVE [(877) 672-4483] or email

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Creating Your Legacy

Each individual or family situation is unique, and this is particularly true when planning a gift to the National Rifle Association (NRA). One of the most popular ways to give is through a provision in one's estate plan.

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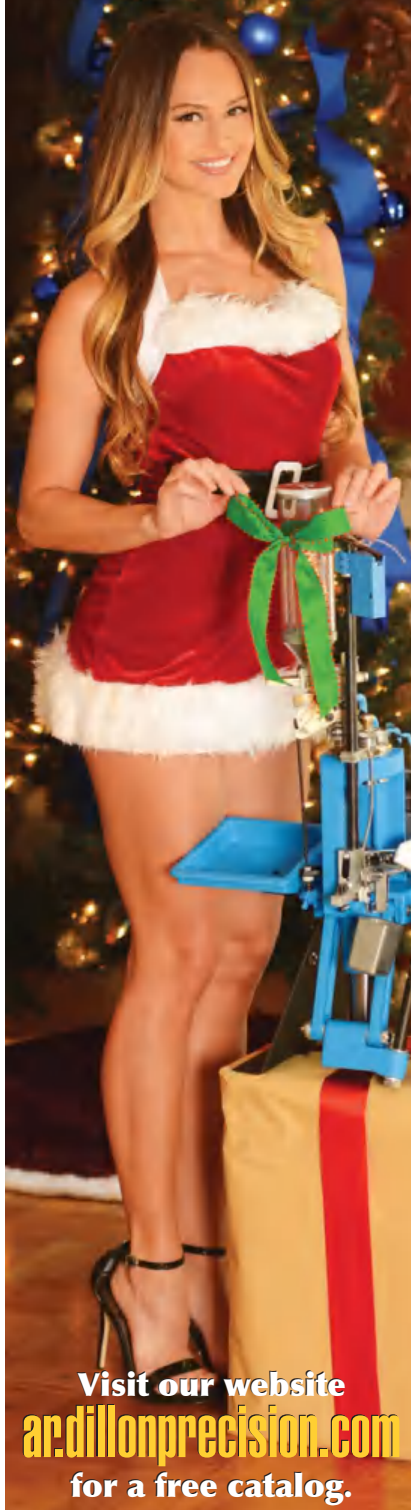
ing for the financial well-being of your family and loved ones, I urge you to join me in taking a step that can be a very special way to extend important freedoms to future generations.

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CORRESPONDENCE | READERS WRITE

Real Limitations

Craig Boddington's story—"How To Shoot Big Guns: 'A Man's Got To Know His Limitations'" (October 2105, p. 76)—on shooting heavy-recoiling rifles was one of the best pieces I've read in a long time. As usual, his advice is practical, real-world stuff you can use because it was gained from his own hard-won experience.

In my youth I, too, thought fear of recoil was for sissies and loved to shoot anything someone handed me. That was fine up into my 50s or so, but then I acquired a Steyr Scout rifle in .376 Steyr that weighed a mere 6 lbs., 8 ozs. I found out then exactly what Craig meant about a man "learning his limitations." That rifle got sold within a year.

Craig's writing style is impeccable. He is clear, concise, funny and smart as a whip. Always a treat to see his byline appear. Thanks for a great article.

JIM MURPHY, MASSACHUSETTS



In Country, 1969

I thoroughly enjoyed "In Country: Small Arms Of The Vietnam War" (October 2015, p. 62) by Capt. Dale Dye with my favorite photo being the G.I. with the "Ma Deuce" on the Jeep. Not readily apparent in this 1969 photo of me in the Mekong Delta is the "Grease Gun" in my left hand. That firearm was well-covered in your magazine a number of years ago (January 2000, p. 26), and mine was flawless—unlike the rifle in my right hand. Thankful to be home 45 years.

STEVE "PREACHERMAN" ANDERSON, NEW YORK



On The DMZ

Captain Dye's article on Vietnam small arms was sincerely appreciated by those of us of the era. A small correction, though, is that the "Patrol Near the DMZ" (p. 64) appears armed not with a Remington Model 10, but with a Winchester Model 12. As an aside, I would encourage all members to open their mail from NRA. I did not on an occasion, and as a consequence stopped receiving *American Rifleman*. That was because, even as a Life member, since I did not reply, I was considered an inactive member.

GLEN WARREN, WASHINGTON



Better Armed On The Issue

Thank you for Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre's informative article "Existing Laws—If They Were All Applied—Could Put Gunrunners Away For A Long Time" (October 2015, p. 12). By listing each statute, Wayne makes it very clear that there is no "gun show loophole." It is each individual buyer or seller who is bound by these statutes, whether or not the gun is purchased at a dealership or a NICS background is performed.

I am now better armed to discuss the matter with some of my more liberal friends and relatives. The article is much-appreciated.

FRANK ENGLE, ARIZONA

"Readers Write" affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or e-mail us at publications@nrahq.org.

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Eyes On The Future

The 2015 MidwayUSA & NRA Bianchi Cup saw Doug Koenig return to the top position for a historic 16th championship. The 37th Bianchi Cup competition was held May 21-24 at the Green Valley Rifle & Pistol Club in Hallsville, Mo., and nearly 300 competitors from nine different countries shot the challenging courses of fire. With a perfect score of 1920-180X, Koenig secured the High Overall and High Open titles. Full results are available from *Shooting Sports USA*, NRA's competitive shooting journal, at ssusa.org.

Shown here shooting his open class, .38 Super, Smith & Wesson M1911 with a Leupold DeltaPoint reflex sight, Koenig has been utilizing optical sighting systems on his competition guns for decades. The advantages of optics-enhanced handguns are now well-known and well-documented, and the tide seems to be coming in for optics-ready pistols, not just for competition, but for hunting, duty use and personal protection, as well. For more regarding optics-ready handguns, turn to Field Editor Jeff Johnston's article "Optics Ready: The Mini-Reflex Revolution" on p. 48.



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Unprecedented Commitment: Ruger's 2 Million Gun Challenge Is Going Strong



Here at the halfway point of Ruger's 2 Million Gun Challenge, NRA-ILA's war chest for the coming elections is growing in an inspiring new way, increasing by \$2 with the sale of every new Ruger firearm on the way to a projected total contribution of \$4 million.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre praised Ruger for being part of the effort to take back the White House and expand pro-Second Amendment majorities in both houses of Congress next year. NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox added, "[B]y supporting the NRA's fight to defend the right to keep and bear arms, Ruger not only advances the rights of American gun owners and hunters—it also directly benefits the freedoms and safety of all Americans."

Perhaps as noteworthy as Ruger's generosity, is how this American



company is extending itself, in a sense betting on itself, in making such a promise. The 2 million guns Ruger has pledged to build and sell in

the year leading up to the 2016 NRA Annual Meetings is an unprecedented number. Four years ago the company stretched its manufacturing capacity

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RANDOM SHOTS



to meet, and ultimately to exceed, its original Million Gun Challenge. The 1.4 million Rugers produced then smashed the firm's previous annual record, and now with the bar set even higher, it's clear that all 1,843 Ruger employees are fully committed to meeting the objective.

In a conversation with Ruger CEO Mike Fifer, NRA Editorial Director John Zent learned about the corporate transformation that is making this ambitious undertaking a reality.

ZENT: Is this a good time to be an American gun manufacturer?

FIFER: This is a really good time to be an American gun consumer. In the past 10 years, as Ruger innovated, we've brought out lots of good products, and the best part is our competitors have started to follow. If you like guns, it's never been better, and so when the consumer base is energized and excited, then it's a lot of fun to be a manufacturer.

ZENT: How have you balanced your goal to reshape today's market while

staying true to Ruger's tradition of quality firearms at great value?

FIFER: Our founder, Bill Ruger, set the tone early on when he decided he was going to make an utterly reliable, honest, workingman's gun for about a week's pay, and we have stuck to that. Ruggedness and reliability are the keystones, and we strive for great value in continuing to develop new products that always fit their market segment. Among my concerns now are: Would Bill Ruger be proud of this? Are we doing the right thing? That's key in all of our product development.

ZENT: Rapid growth, corporate or otherwise, can be difficult, yet it seems Ruger has taken that in stride. How are you managing to do so?

FIFER: About eight years ago, we decided to adopt "lean" [processes] throughout our company. It is most noticeable in manufacturing. The key to going lean is eliminating waste, which frees up all kinds of resources. Whether it's space, equipment, people, cash or inventory, it gives you back a

lot of resources, and we reinvest those. This is why we've been able to grow so fast both on the product development side and then build lots of those new products. We've gone from eight years ago producing 450,000 or so guns to our goal this year of 2 million.

ZENT: We've heard you speak about how a company's structure affects the products it makes. How is Ruger dealing with that?

FIFER: My experience, starting when I was in the Navy on submarines, and through different industries, convinced me that smaller organizations work better. It's more personal, you get to know everyone and you get to know their families and all the stories. It's a lot easier to get everyone to pull the oars in the same direction.

When it gets too big—and for me, when that exceeds 500 people and certainly over 1,000—there is no way to know everybody or know what's going on, and different groups of people are working in different directions. You get

continued on p. 30



PRODUCT PREVIEWS

LaserLyte Laser Color Guard Kit

Even more important during a self-defense scenario than accurate shot placement is the sound judgment required to decide whether to pull the trigger at all. And just as LaserLyte's Score Tyme Target (May 2015, p. 77) brought practical laser training to the former skill, the company's new Laser Color Guard Kit is doing the same for the latter.

The bundle contains both a Color Guard Trainer Target and a Trainer Pistol Full-Size. The Color Guard Trainer Target features one 3.5" illuminated target that randomly shifts its colored display between red, yellow, blue and green. The Color Guard Trainer Target weighs just 9.5 ozs., uses two AA batteries and can be operated either muted or with sound to provide auditory feedback.

Green and blue targets are designated as "enemy" targets, and a successful strike on one of those colors adds a point to the user's score, while red and yellow targets represent non-threats, and shooting the target at that time will forfeit a point. The amount of time each color is presented changes at random, forcing users to quickly decide whether the situation calls for a shot or not. Price: \$240. Contact: LaserLyte (Dept. AR), 30 N. Alamos Drive, Cottonwood, AZ 86326; (928) 649-3201; laserlyte.com.

—KELLY YOUNG, ASSOCIATE EDITOR



RAPID FIRE

POCKET CANNONS' MINI CANNON launches a .30-cal. slingshot ball with surprising energy, yet measures only 2" long. Compatible with Pyrodex P, Triple 7 or any FFFg black powder, the Mini Cannon comes with three steel balls and a ramrod—and is a great stocking stuffer for fans of portable artillery. pocketcannons.com



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THE 2015-16 RUGER
2 MILLION
GUN CHALLENGE

continued from p.28

a lot of inefficiencies. I believe we're better off with smaller factories, say 500 people, than with one big facility with thousands of people. When it's personal, everyone cares and that translates directly to higher-quality products because someone's name is on that gun when it leaves the building. They care about it.

ZENT: Given all that, your ability to build increasingly large numbers of quality products, what makes you so confident that gun owners, who come with all different interests and ideas about what they want, will choose to buy so many new Rugers over the span of the 2 Million Gun Challenge?

FIFER: Since the 2012 NRA show we've brought 31 major new products to market. I think that's more than the rest of the industry combined, and we've done so by reinvesting everything back in. When I joined the company nine years ago, we had 17 engineers [on board], now we have more than 100. We've invested a lot of effort, we now have product managers, we've spent a lot of time listening to the customers. We actually go out and ask people what they want from Ruger. That's a much easier way of doing business than just sitting in a factory trying to guess what they would like. So we ask, put the resources behind it, work very hard at it. And I get to test all the new products, that's fun.

Every member can help the 2 Million Gun Challenge succeed in providing NRA-ILA with badly needed funds to elect pro-gun candidates. When shopping for a firearm or advising others in the market for one, please consider what Ruger has to offer. In fact, its selection is among the largest, most varied and highest-quality available. The Challenge extends to all of us.

RAPID FIRE

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2. For Your Family

3. For Your Community

4. For Your Country

5. For Your Future

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

PRODUCT PREVIEWS

SoundGear In-The-Canal Digital Hearing Protection



Aside from following NRA's three rules of firearms safety, responsible shooters must always protect their eyes and ears. One of the smallest and lightest ear-protection products available is SoundGear's In-The-Canal digital hearing protection. The pint-size plugs feature a noise-reduction rating of 25 decibels (dBs) and weigh only 0.096 ozs. Noise suppression begins at 93 dBs, meaning any sound 93 dBs or higher is automatically cut off to eliminate potential hearing damage. The device also digitally processes sound, providing an amplification gain of 15 dBs. Included with the complete kit is a handy carrying case as well as ear canal adapters to fit anyone. Two packs of size 10 hearing aid batteries and a cleaning brush are also included. SoundGear backs its products with a one-year limited warranty, as well as a 30-day, risk-free trial period. A test sample exhibited crystal clear sound without the loss of sound orientation. Price \$400. Contact: SoundGear (Dept. AR), 6700 Washington Ave. S., Eden Prairie, MN 55344; (800) 769-8605; soundgearhearing.com.

WINCHESTER'S latest wood box project offers 200 rounds of service-grade .45 ACP ammunition—230-gr. FMJ—for around \$100. winchester.com



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PRODUCT PREVIEWS



Sneaky Pete Arsenal

Built to the same standards as the rest of its line, the Sneaky Pete Arsenal allows you to discreetly carry an extra 50 rounds of ammunition on your hip. Made from high-quality black leather, the walls of the Arsenal have been reinforced in order to support the weight of your favorite ammunition. The portable case utilizes a single spring-steel belt clip for retention and two pairs of rare-earth magnets to keep the front flap secured. Each Arsenal is specifically sized and comes with an empty plastic cartridge tray for use with .380 ACP, 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W, 10 mm Auto or .45 ACP ammunition. Price: \$30. Contact: sneakypeteholsters.com.

RAPID FIRE



SAVAGE'S MODEL 212 CAMO is a bolt-action, 12-ga. shotgun designed with deer hunting in mind. The slug gun features the AccuTrigger, a rifled 22" barrel, wears a camouflage finish and is drilled and tapped for the installation of an optic. savagearms.com

Gun Pro Delta 1 M1911 Sights

Whether you're using your handgun to compete, hunt or safeguard your life, proper shot placement is the key to success, so having a sighting system that is quick and easy to use is imperative. Forming a simple, single-point sight picture, Gun Pro's Delta 1 adjustable 1911 Sights provide fast and intuitive target acquisition for your M1911-pattern pistol. The set's Novak-style rear sight features a green fiber-optic delta (triangle) that collects ambient light. The front sight contains a V-shaped groove running its length, and its rear face is serrated and has been painted blaze orange. Once installed, just align the vertex of the front sight's groove with the tip of the rear sight's delta. Fixed sights for Glock and Smith & Wesson M&P pistols are also available. Price: \$120. Contact: Gun Pro (Dept. AR), P.O. Box 9257, St. Louis, MO 63117; (314) 680-2363; gunpro.us.



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The Ultimate Step-By-Step AR-15 Build Guide

Assembling an AR-15 is simultaneously a fairly simple yet involved task, and The Gun Coach's "The Ultimate Step-By-Step AR-15 Build Guide" DVD conveniently breaks the process into 10 easy-to-follow chapters. Jim VanMiddlesworth uses his 25 years of law enforcement experience and 10 years of practice as an AR armorer to guide viewers as they assemble their guns' lower and upper receiver groups, buttstocks, barrel assemblies and bolt carrier groups. The approximately 100-minute video uses multiple camera angles to help provide the best possible view of the assembly as it occurs, and effectively utilizes close-ups to demonstrate the precise fitting of small parts. In addition to the tutorial, the DVD also includes a list of 11 essential tools that will be needed as your AR comes together, as well as an extra list of optional tools that help streamline the process. Price: \$17. Contact: The Gun Coach; theguncoach.com.

Blue Book "Gun StoreMaster"

Blue Book Of Gun Values has released its new "Gun StoreMaster," a software service designed to make buying, selling and managing firearm transactions easier and more profitable for dealers and other federal firearms license holders. Designed to be an accurate and easy-to-implement way for FFL dealers to comply with ATF's recordkeeping requirements, "Gun StoreMaster" allows dealers to store all firearm acquisition and disposition information in one searchable, printable place. The service's eSAFE Bound Book system is accessible from anywhere online, automatically backs itself up every few minutes and employs comprehensive security measures to encrypt and protect all confidential data. For more information on "Gun StoreMaster," including pricing, go to gunstoremaster.com.



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BOOKS IN BRIEF

Colt Thompson Submachine Gun: Serial Numbers & Histories

Every gun collector has a pet passion, a particular niche where he or she feels most at home.

Gordon Herigstad's passion was the Colt Thompson submachine gun, however, unlike most collectors, Herigstad did the community of collectors a big favor—he wrote down everything he knew about Thompsons and published it.

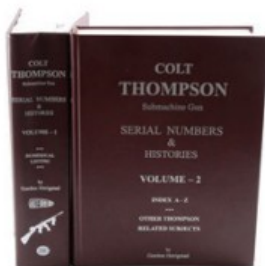
At two volumes, 2,200 pp. and weighing nearly 20 lbs., *Colt Thompson Submachine Gun Serial Numbers & Histories* is the Thompson story's magnum opus. The bulk of the work is an examination of each and every one of the serial numbers for all 15,000 Colt Model 1921s made during its production run. Every page seems to have something of interest, whether it is a listing of a sale to your local police department, the USMC or to Irish rebels.

The second volume centers on more

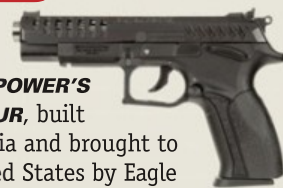
detailed descriptions of the larger contracts and an index of persons, police departments, counties and just about any other entity where a Thompson may have been shipped. Spread throughout both volumes are color reproductions of original Auto-Ordnance correspondence as well as period photos, catalogs and user manuals detailing the wide variety of Thompson tools and accessories.

The price tag may be a bit steep, but as a museum curator, militaria enthusiast, historian and gun collector, I consider this monumental effort to be a "must have" in my personal collection. Available for purchase on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Price: \$350. Contact: *Graphic Publishers (Dept. AR), 2510 N. Grand Ave., Suite 104, Santa Ana, CA 92705; (800) 496-8726.*

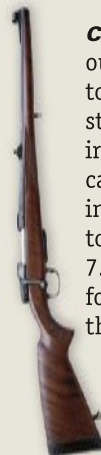
—PHILIP SCHREIER, SENIOR CURATOR,
NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM



RAPID FIRE



GRAND POWER'S X-CALIBUR, built in Slovakia and brought to the United States by Eagle Imports, is a double-action/single-action semi-automatic pistol chambered in 9 mm Luger. The full-size handgun features a 5" fluted bull barrel, fiber-optic front sight and lightening cuts in the slide. eagleimportsinc.com



CZ'S MODEL 550 FS stands out in a crowd, thanks to its classic Mannlicher stock, steel muzzle cap and iron sights. Offered in six capable hunting chamberings, the rifle's 20.5" barrel, total length of 41.5" and 7.2-lb. weight make it ideal for taking quick shots in the field. cz-usa.com

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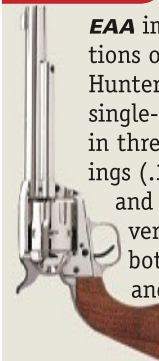
constructed from one piece of anodized aluminum and weighs just 10 ozs. The unit is compatible with both 16.5" and 18"-barreled Tavors and features two integrally machined QD sling swivel pockets on each side. Installation requires only the removal of the stock handguard by loosening two Phillips head screws, sliding the ARCLight XT L into place over the barrel and retightening the screws.

The Fully Loaded version of the fore-end comes with Manticore Arms' Light Ring—for mounting a 1"-diameter weapon light just below the barrel—one

five-slot segment of ARC LOK rail and one 11-slot ARC LOK rail section. A Naked version of the ARCLight XT L, without the extra rails or Light Ring, is also available. Price: \$235 (Fully Loaded), \$175 (Naked). Contact: Manticore Arms, Inc. (Dept. AR), 902 S. Randall Road, Suite C, No. 318, St. Charles, IL, 60174; (630) 715-0334; manticorearms.com.

—KELLY YOUNG, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

RAPID FIRE



EAA imports several variations of Weihrauch's Bounty Hunter, a German-made single-action revolver offered in three center-fire chamberings (.357 Mag., .44 Mag. and .45 Colt) and a rimfire version that comes with both a .22 Long Rifle and .22 WMR cylinder.

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Reload On Men & Guns Of Vietnam

It was a half-century ago this year that American ground forces entered into major combat against communist forces in the Republic of South Vietnam. More than 55,000 Americans perished during the "10,000 Day War," and this month we honor their service and sacrifice. Combining interviews with veterans, live-fire demonstrations and archival footage, we reprise our three-part series examining the firearms used by both American troops and their enemies. Check your local listings, and tune in Wednesday nights on the Outdoor Channel.

Wednesday, December 2

Feature..... Fabrique Nationale Systems
Rifleman Review..... Springfield XD Mod.2 .45 ACP Pistol
I Have This Old Gun..... Reising Model 55 Submachine Gun

Wednesday, December 9

Feature..... Men & Guns of Vietnam, Part I
Rifleman Review..... Browning Model 1911-380 .380 ACP Pistol
I Have This Old Gun..... Colt Model 601 Carbine

Wednesday, December 16

Feature..... Men & Guns of Vietnam, Part II
Rifleman Review..... Beretta ARX-160 .22 Long Rifle Carbine
I Have This Old Gun..... Czech Vz52 Carbine

Wednesday, December 23

Feature..... Men & Guns of Vietnam, Part III
Rifleman Review..... Colt Model 1903 .32 ACP Pistol
I Have This Old Gun..... Iraqi Tariq Pistol

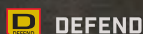
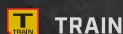


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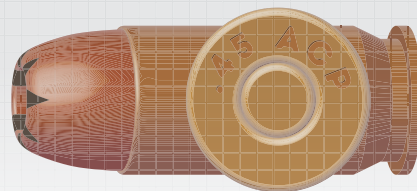
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An original offering is sometimes difficult to top, and that's exactly the case with the .45 ACP. For more than a century, 230-gr. bullets fired from the "forty-five" have proven to be the gold standard for personal protection. With its consistent, reliable expansion and high retained weight through "FBI protocol"-prescribed barriers, Speer's Gold Dot (GD) Personal Protection hollow-point (HP) makes the bullet/cartridge combination even better. Using 6.6 grs. of Alliant's new clean-burning, low-flash BE-86 propellant, and fired from the 4½" barrel of a Ruger P90DC, the 0.451"-diameter, 230-gr. GDHP attained 887 f.p.s., producing more than 400 ft.-lbs. of energy. With such ballistics and a stellar reputation, it's little wonder why fervent .45 fans are loathe to deviate from the original.

—AARON CARTER, FIELD EDITOR

.45 ACP

BULLET: SPEER GOLD DOT PERSONAL PROTECTION 230-GR. HP

PROPELLANT/CHARGE: ALLIANT BE-86/6.6 GRs.

PRIMER: FEDERAL 150

CASE: HORNADY

CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 0.888"

CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 1.210"*

VELOCITY @ 5' (FPS.): 887

ENERGY (FT.-LBS.): 402

ACCURACY: 2.27"

USES: PERSONAL PROTECTION, PRACTICE

NOTES: ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. WITH A 4½"-BARRELED RUGER P90DC PISTOL.

*TAPER CRIMP REQUIRED.

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based upon the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training, procedures, techniques and safety precautions that are absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. READ THE NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER ON THE CONTENTS PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE. ALWAYS CONSULT COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE MANUALS AND BULLETINS OF PROPER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, TECHNIQUES AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.

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4. For Your Country

5. For Your Future

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Forget about smartphones and GPS, because when it comes to taking on Mother Nature, there's only one tool you really need. Our stunning **Stag Hunter** is the ultimate sidekick for surviving and thriving in the great outdoors. Priced at \$149, the **Stag Hunter** can be yours today for an unbelievable **\$79!** Call now and we'll include a bonus leather sheath!

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— D., Houston, Texas



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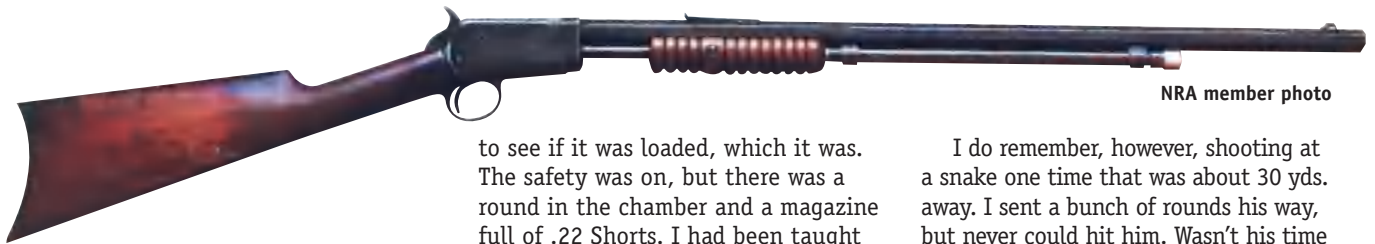


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Stauer. A Different Tale to Tell.

Winchester Model 1890



NRA member photo

One of my favorite firearms is a .22-cal. Winchester Model 1890 pump-action rifle that had belonged to my grandmother's next-door neighbor. The neighbor passed away in 1960 when I was 12 years old. I was at my grandmother's house after the funeral, and the neighbor's widow came over to our kitchen with the rifle and asked me if I would like to have it. I graciously accepted the rifle and thanked her for the gift.

Since I knew the neighbor had kept the rifle on his back porch as his varmint gun, and had kept it ready for quick access in case something came around, the first thing I did was check

to see if it was loaded, which it was. The safety was on, but there was a round in the chamber and a magazine full of .22 Shorts. I had been taught gun safety from a young age by my father, and had attended an NRA hunter safety course at about that same time. I was also a Junior member of the NRA by that age, so I knew that the cardinal rule was to always treat every gun as if it were loaded.

The gun would also become my varmint gun, although my "varmints" were mostly bottles and cans on my grandparents' farm in southern Illinois—and no can or bottle was safe.

I do remember, however, shooting at a snake one time that was about 30 yds. away. I sent a bunch of rounds his way, but never could hit him. Wasn't his time to go, I guess. Couldn't have been that I just wasn't a very good shot.

Based on its serial number, this Model 1890 was produced in 1915, one of 20,271 manufactured that year. In total, more than 760,000 Model 1890s were made by Winchester, so they certainly aren't rare, but mine still holds a special place in my heart and memory. It may now be 100 years old, but to me that rifle will always be timeless.

—TERRY RIDGLEY, TENNESSEE

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on americanrifleman.org, send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.



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Souvenir Mauser 1914

Q I am looking for some help with a pistol I inherited from my grandfather. One of his brothers brought it home as a souvenir after World War II. The gun has no Nazi markings. To the best of my knowledge, my grandfather never fired it. Am I the lucky owner of something awesome or just fortunate to have inherited grandpa's gun?

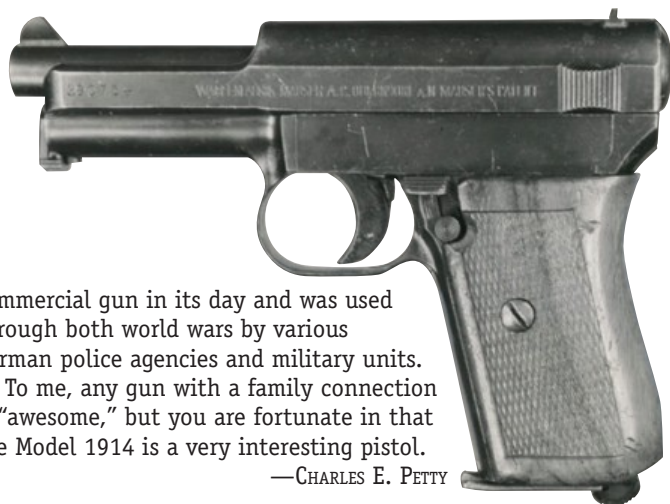
A Your pistol is a Mauser Model 1914, which is chambered in 7.65 mm Browning (the American .32 ACP) cartridge. It is a slightly larger version of the .25 ACP Model 1910. The Model 1914, like the Model 1910, is a striker-fired, blowback-operated pistol. The Model 1914 has a 3.42" barrel and an eight-round-capacity detachable box magazine with its release on the frame's heel. The rear of the striker protruded through the back of the slide, serving as a cocking indicator. There is a manual safety on the frame's left, and the slide locks back on an empty magazine.

These guns were made from 1914 until 1934. A change to the shape of the grip frame resulted in the .32 ACP Model 1934, and the design was gradually replaced by the double-action Mauser HSc. The Model 1914 was a popular

commercial gun in its day and was used through both world wars by various German police agencies and military units.

To me, any gun with a family connection is "awesome," but you are fortunate in that the Model 1914 is a very interesting pistol.

—CHARLES E. PETTY



From the thousands of questions and letters on guns, ammunition and their use that *American Rifleman* receives every year, it publishes the most interesting here. Receiving answers to technical and historical questions is a privilege reserved to NRA members.

Questions must be in the form of letters addressed to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400; must contain the member's code line from an *American Rifleman* or *American Hunter* mailing label or membership card; must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope; and must be limited to one specific question per letter. Non-members may submit a question with a membership application. We cannot answer technical or historical questions by telephone, e-mail or fax, and we cannot place even an approximate value on guns or other equipment. Please allow eight to 10 weeks for replies.

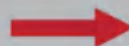
"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff and Contributing Editors: Bruce N. Canfield, Garry James, Charles Pate, Charles E. Petty, Matt Sharpe, John M. Taylor and John Treakle.

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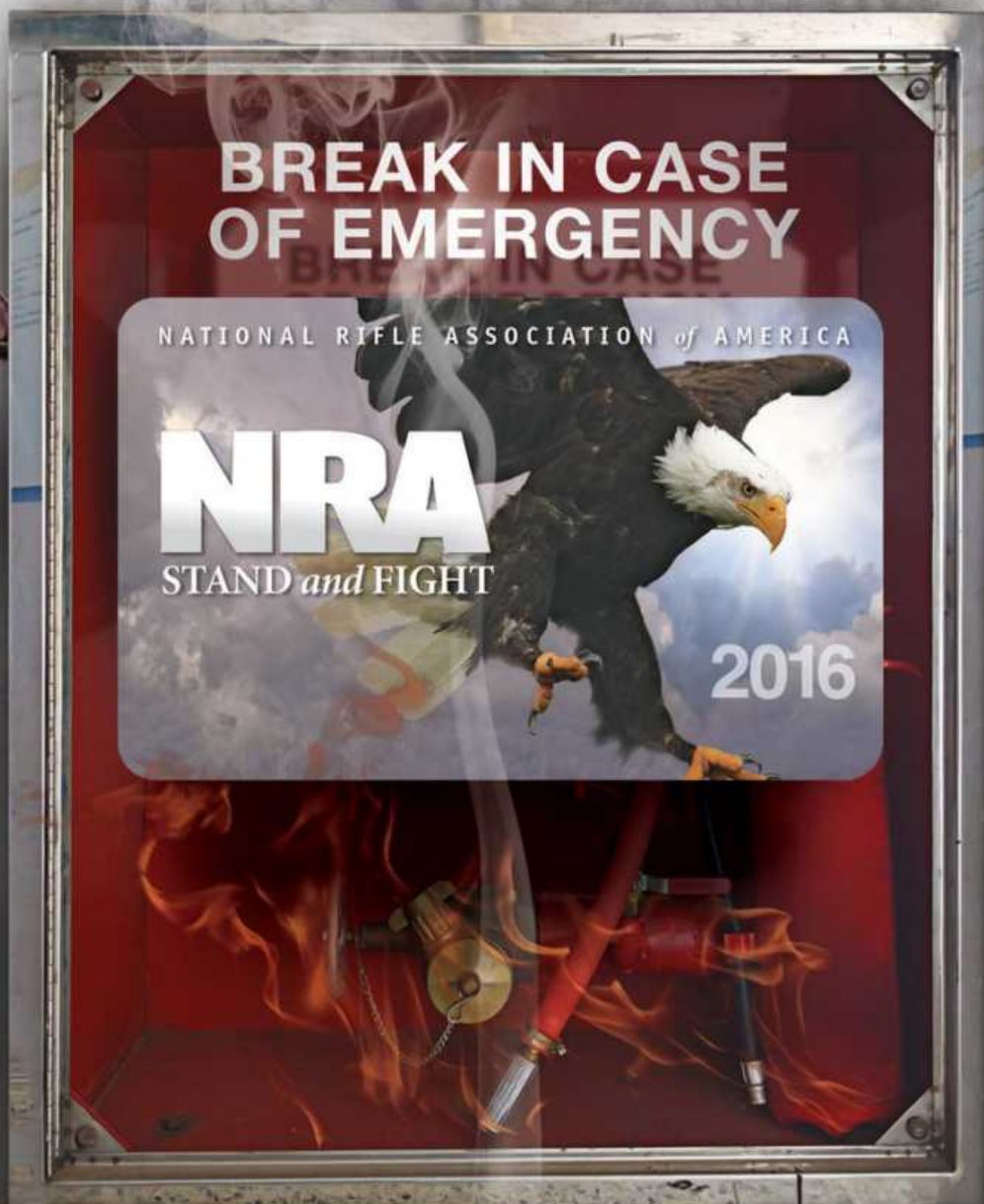
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BREAK IN CASE
OF EMERGENCY

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

NRA
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2016





“WE CAN
SHAKE OUR
HEADS AND
WATCH
EVERYTHING
WE LOVE
ABOUT
AMERICA
SLIP AWAY—
INCLUDING
OUR SECOND
AMENDMENT
RIGHTS AND
EVERY OTHER
FREEDOM WE
CHERISH. OR
WE CAN STEP
FORWARD—
AND SHAKE
OUR FISTS
INSTEAD.”

**here's a raging fire
burning in American
politics right now, and
your Second Amendment-protected right to keep
and bear arms is quietly being shredded and used
as kindling. Fortunately for all Americans who
treasure liberty, there's a monumental firewall
standing tall between the flames of failure and
freedom's future—the 5 million members of the
National Rifle Association.**



by WAYNE LAPIERRE

*NRA Executive
Vice President*

After seven years of President Barack Obama in the White House, we now live in a country where our values and heritage are being turned upside down, in a country where political leaders and the media are willing to tell any lie that advances their political agenda.

Thanks to his refusal to prosecute violent criminals, Obama's hometown of Chicago is awash in a sea of blood. But instead of putting thugs in jail, Obama points his cowardly finger at gun owners like you and me, who've never committed a violent crime and never will.

When a radical Islamic terrorist killed four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor in Chattanooga, Tenn., last summer—servicemen who were disarmed and defenseless thanks to reckless gun control policies that have turned our military installations into “gun-free zones”—Obama's billionaire backer Michael Bloomberg launched a campaign to blame honest, law-abiding Americans for this heinous crime.

And within minutes of the tragedy in Charleston, S.C.—where nine worshipers were murdered in church by a deranged, lone racist—Obama's political machine was cranking out anti-NRA lies and trying to implicate you and me in this heinous crime.

It's crazy—and beyond anything we could have imagined a few years ago. Day by day, our country is being hijacked by liars and elites who believe in one set of rules for themselves and another set of rules for you and me.

They send their children to private schools surrounded by armed guards—then call me “crazy” when I demand the same protections for every other kid in this country. They send thousands of guns to Mexican drug lords—then blame the NRA and the Second Amendment when their irresponsible actions result in hundreds of deaths. They turn a blind



FREEDOM'S ON FIRE

eye to violent gangs who terrorize our cities with no fear of the police—then persecute honest citizens who defend their own lives.

Our news anchors lie to millions night after night, but decent people are afraid to speak their minds for fear of persecution from Obama's weaponized IRS and other government agencies. And every horrific crime is another opportunity for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton to tell more lies and point their fingers at the innocent.

Everywhere I go, I hear good people telling me that our country is falling apart. That we're losing our way of life. That Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wouldn't begin to recognize this country today. Now, the future of everything we love about this country comes down to the

the polls, we have the votes—with more than 50 million gun owners in the key battleground states where this presidential election will be won or lost.

The moment you and I win the White House next year is the moment we can start taking our country back from those who want to regiment our lives and tell us how to think and feel.

But it's going to take a huge commitment from top NRA members like you—starting with your decision to extend your annual membership today, or upgrade your Life, Patron, Endowment or Benefactor membership to the next level of our leadership ranks.

That brings me to an important point: Today I need to announce an important

“BACK IN 1994, MICHAEL BLOOMBERG WASN'T EVEN A BILLIONAIRE. NOW, HIS PERSONAL FORTUNE TOTALS MORE THAN ALL THE MEMBERSHIP DUES NRA HAS TAKEN IN OVER THE PAST 144 YEARS, AND HE COULD SPEND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN TO PUT HILLARY CLINTON OVER THE TOP.”

outcome of one single election—and one choice that you and I must make today.

We can shake our heads and watch everything we love about America slip away—including our Second Amendment rights and every other freedom we cherish. Or we can step forward—and shake our fists instead.

If we make a commitment together to *stand and fight and win* right now, we can be the ones who decide the outcome of this presidential election—not Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton or Michael Bloomberg.

We've played the deciding role in presidential elections before. We have the track record. And if we can get them to

decision to you and to every NRA member. I've put it off for as long as I can, and it's not a decision I've made lightly. But it's the right decision for the NRA, and for the long-term survival of our freedoms.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, we will be increasing NRA dues for the first time in more than 20 years. Our one-year dues rate will increase to \$40 from \$35, and the price of our multi-year memberships and Life, Endowment, Patron and Benefactor memberships will increase as well.

Since taking the helm of NRA more than 20 years ago, I've always tried to stretch every NRA membership dollar as far as it will go. But not only have NRA dues dollars

been deeply eroded by inflation for more than 20 years, but we now have to fight 24/7—on far more fronts than before—against enemies with deeper pockets than we've ever faced.

When we last increased dues back in 1994, most Americans still got their TV news from the “big three” networks. Now, we have no choice but to answer daily and nightly attacks from a dozen separate news channels around the clock.

In 1994, most Americans had never even heard of the Internet. Now, politicians like Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton can use the Internet to spread their anti-gun lies like wildfire in a matter of minutes—or instantly spin new attacks via email, Facebook and Twitter.

Back in 1994, Michael Bloomberg wasn't even a billionaire. Now, his personal fortune totals more than all the membership dues NRA has taken in over the past 144 years, and he could spend hundreds of millions of dollars in this presidential campaign to put Hillary Clinton over the top.

And it takes far more money and effort to make our message heard at election time. In fact, House and Senate campaigns now cost three times what they did 20 years ago—and presidential campaign spending has increased five-fold.

The bottom line is that, without this dues increase, we won't be able to compete in the election a year from now, which will be the most expensive in American history and that could be the final defeat for the Second Amendment and every freedom we cherish.

But before this increase goes into effect, I want you and my most loyal friends to have one more opportunity to extend your membership at the same discount rates we offered you at this time last year. If you're an annual member, you can extend your membership for one, two, three or even five years—all at special prices that will never be repeated. And if you're a Life, Endowment, Patron or Benefactor member, this is your chance to upgrade your membership to the next level at the lowest dues rates we've offered in years.

To take advantage of the special offers we've reserved especially for you, simply visit NRA2016.org and log in with your membership number from the mailing label on this magazine. No matter which of our discount offers you select, *you'll also receive a commemorative gift* from NRA as a reminder of your role in saving freedom in the do-or-die elections one year from now.

Please do it now. These special discounts and gift offers will expire at midnight Dec. 31, and our new rates will go

into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. But even more importantly, NRA needs your help now to save our freedom, save our country and save our way of life.

I'm asking you not to sit this one out. I need you to be with me on the tip of the spear by continuing your NRA support right now. None of us can win this election alone—but one by one by one we can and will make the difference.

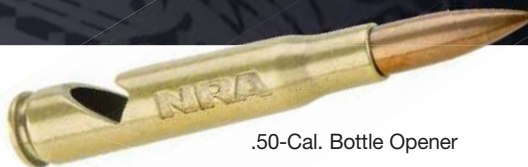
This is our fight. Our time. This is the moment when good people like you need to take the future into your own hands. We can take our country back. We can keep our guns. And we can keep our freedoms and the sacred right to defend our own lives.

It starts with your decision to renew your membership or upgrade your membership today. Only NRA can protect your right to protect yourself. Only NRA can turn the tide against gun-banners who want to turn our country into a nanny state where only the government and criminals are allowed to have guns.

And you can make a difference—as well as lock in a great membership rate before the NRA dues increase on Jan. 1—by visiting **NRA2016.org** today. Thank you in advance for standing with me in the most important battle for freedom we'll ever fight!

Wayne L. Pierce

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HANDGUN OPTICS

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THE MINI-REFLEX REVOLUTION

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Competitive shooters and the U.S. military have known about the advantages of reflex sights for years, but it wasn't until these "red dots" were miniaturized that rank-and-file gun owners took note. Several major gun companies now make handguns with integral mounts for these sights, and more are surely on the way.

BY JEFF JOHNSTON, Field Editor

It wasn't that long ago when Picatinny rails were new to rifles. What did we do before them? Well, we didn't mount riflescopes on our ARs very swiftly, for one. Yet competitive shooters would not be denied the vast benefits of optics, and so they rigged them to their guns however they could—often with the help of professional gunsmiths and custom-machined mounts. Manufacturers took note and began integrating slotted rails atop AR receivers, and the Picatinny design was more or less accepted across the board. Now optics on ARs are as common as white on rice.

A similar evolution is happening right now with handguns. Again, it was the competitive shooters who started it, but the movement required the miniaturization of reflex, or red-dot sights, to make them practical for everyone else. Today, about a half-dozen companies offer handguns with integral mounting solutions for a growing catalog of mini-reflex sights, and the trend is snowballing as shooters of all disciplines discover them. Indeed, when we look back in 20 years, 2015 may just be the year of the mini-reflex revolution.

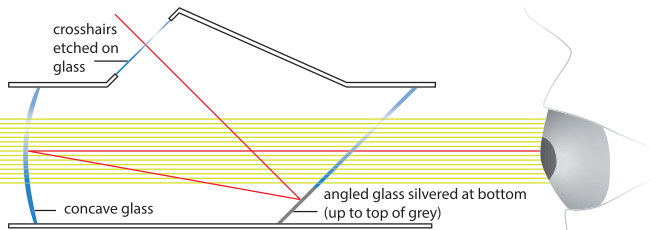


A Trijicon RMR (far L.) is mounted on the S&W Performance Center Ported M&P. Leupold's DeltaPoint, shown atop the FN America FNX-45 Tactical, is thinner than other reflexes and is the only unit that fits the Kahr Arms Gen2 Premium TP9 and TP45.

HANDGUN OPTICS

THE MINI-REFLEX CONCEPT

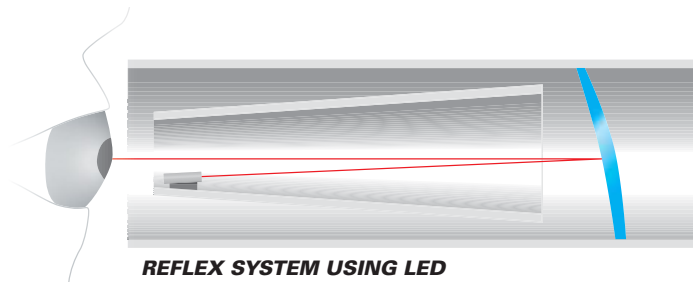
The reflex, or reflective, sight is more than a century old and grew into a better gunsight for aircraft and anti-aircraft gunners because it didn't limit field of view and eye relief like telescopic sights of the time. The sight relied upon an optical system that formed a visual collimator to superimpose a reflected image of a reticle onto a curved lens in the shooter's line of sight. Whereas a simple reticle that's etched or wired onto a lens moves in relation to the target as the eye moves, an image of a reticle that is reflected stays on target. What this means is that parallax is minimized.



REFLEX SYSTEM REQUIRING AMBIENT LIGHT

With this invention, gun sights needed only one focal point rather than a front and rear sight that must be aligned on the target. Its only limitation as a heads-up sighting device was that it depended on light to work.

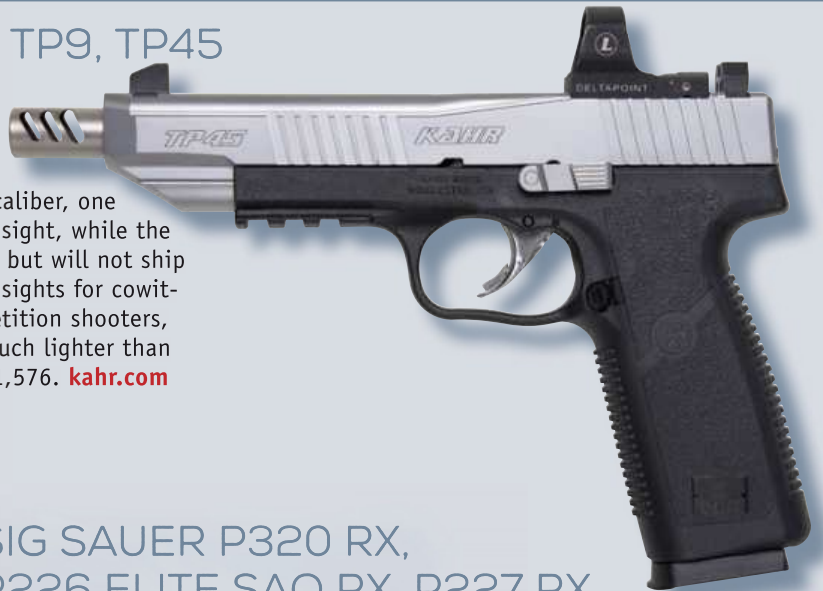
In the 1970s the reflex sight as we know it was brought to market by the Swedish firm Aimpoint. It contained a battery-powered, light-emitting diode (LED) that allowed these compact, tube-enclosed reflex sights to function in darkness. Its glowing "red dot" soon became this sight's nickname. It took a little while longer for a few cutting-edge handgunners to discover the red-dot sight's advantages.



REFLEX SYSTEM USING LED

KAHR GEN2 PREMIUM TP9, TP45

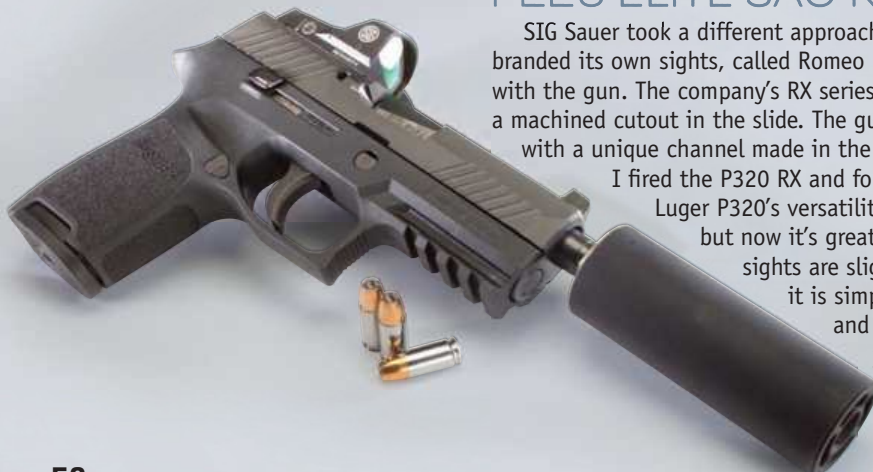
Kahr will initially offer two optics-ready models of its radically new Gen2 Premium line in 9 mm Luger (TP9) and two in .45 ACP (TP45)—with two chambered in .40 S&W likely to follow. In each caliber, one model will come with a Leupold DeltaPoint sight, while the other one will accommodate the DeltaPoint but will not ship with it. All reflex-ready models feature tall sights for cowitnessing. The guns are geared toward competition shooters, employing 5" and 6" barrels and triggers much lighter than those used in Gen1 firearms. Price: \$976-\$1,576. kahr.com



SIG SAUER P320 RX, P226 ELITE SAO RX, P227 RX

SIG Sauer took a different approach in offering a reflex-sight-ready handgun: It branded its own sights, called Romeo 1 and Romeo 3, and offers one in a package with the gun. The company's RX series handguns accommodate the sights by way of a machined cutout in the slide. The guns also have raised iron sights. That, along with a unique channel made in the Romeo sights, allows unfettered cowitnessing.

I fired the P320 RX and found that the Romeo 1 only added to the 9 mm Luger P320's versatility. It was already a solid, full-size duty gun, but now it's great for competition and pure fun. The Romeo sights are slightly wider than many mini-reflex sights, but it is simple with two rubber brightness buttons, robust and easy to use. I was twice as accurate at 25 yds. and much faster shooting the SIG topped with the Romeo. I hope SIG will carry the RX concept to its compact models in the future. Price: \$913-\$1,484. sigsauer.com



RED DOTS ON HANDGUNS?

In 1990, a young Doug Koenig won the Bianchi Cup pistol championship, and he did it with a contraption bolted atop his pistol. He was the first to win the cup using an optic of any kind (since then he's used Aimpoint, Tasco Pro Point II, Leupold/Gilmore and Leupold models), and he's done it 16 times over. He's taken 10 world championships and countless other titles. There is no more qualified or outspoken advocate of reflex sights on handguns. Quite simply, Koenig thinks they're superior to open sights.

"I knew my times with irons, so I had a baseline to test against—the red dot was faster. It's faster because your focus isn't bouncing back and forth [between sight and target], and there's nothing to align," Koenig said. "You just focus on the target and put the dot on it, just like pointing your finger."

But speed isn't the reflex's only advantage.

"Back in those days we shot a lot of indoor matches in low light," Koenig said. "The red dots were optimal, and we [fellow red-dot user and pro-shooter Jerry Barnhardt] shot just as well as we did in daylight. Night sights don't cut it."

As reflex sights have gotten smaller, they have become more unobtrusive on carry or personal-protection guns. As can be seen through the Burris Fast Fire 3 with an 8-m.o.a. dot (r.) on a Glock G40 MOS (Modular Optic System) pistol, the dot is readily visible. Once you have the dot aligned, then you can concentrate on other fundamentals, such as trigger press and breathing.



GLOCK GEN4 G34 MOS, G35 MOS, G40 MOS, G41 MOS

In 2015, Glock released its MOS (Modular Optic System) that uses a 0.196"-deep, 1.929"-long machined slide cutout with four stability posts to mount an optic. All MOS Glocks come with five numbered mounting plates that fit most currently made mini-reflex sights.

The company's Gen4 G40 MOS in 10 mm Auto is marketed toward hunters, what with its 6" barrel and 9.49"-long slide. Even though it has a 15-plus-one capacity of 10 mm Auto ammunition, it weighs 28 ozs. (unloaded) and 40 ozs. (loaded), which compares favorably to many six-shot revolvers. Plus, with a reflex sight installed, it's good for low-light situations. In sum, I consider the Glock G40 MOS one of the most versatile consumer handguns ever produced. Its one downside is that it does not come with taller sights for indexing through the optic, so I recommend installing an aftermarket set.

While all of Glock's MOS models are geared toward competitive shooters and hunters at this time, the company's national sales manager, Bob Radecki, said that, based on the MOS' great reception, it's considering future carry models. Price: \$840. glock.com

HANDGUN OPTICS

Still, most pros were skeptical of their accuracy; for recreational shooters they were overly bulky and too difficult to mount. Protruding nearly 3" above the bore and averaging more than a pound with mounts, only race gun holsters could accommodate them. Batteries were suspect. Concealability was a joke.

Twenty years later, advancements in circuitry and battery technology allowed engineers to redesign the sights. Deciding that they were more robust than necessary, they stripped them down to the bare minimum of parts—a lens to reflect the reticle image, a power source, LED, circuit board and frame—and tossed everything else. The remaining “mini-reflex sight” (MRS) weighed under 2 ozs., was an inch tall and featured greater field of view thanks to its single lens and tubeless design.

Three-gun competitors latched onto them for a quick, short-range option to mount on their rifles in tandem with their riflescopes. Naturally some advantage-seeking soul realized one would be perfect on a handgun where it would only minimally hamper his vision and the gun's handling. After all, an MRS is only about 3/4" taller than standard irons. There is no problem holstering MRS-equipped pistols with most open-top, carry-style holsters because the sight doesn't extend past the ejection port, and as such, holsters have no bearing on it. So, just like that, optics became a viable option for all handgunners.

MINI-REFLEX SIGHTS ON PRACTICAL HANDGUNS

As Koenig described, red-dot-style sights are faster than irons and better in low light. But they're also more accurate, particularly at ranges past 50 yds., thanks to fine dots and triangles, generally representing 2 to 13 m.o.a., that are more precise than the front posts of modern pistols. The U.S. Army bought thousands of Aimpoints for its service rifles because research showed that it made the average soldier more accurate with less training. Additionally, an infinite field of view makes locating targets and transitioning between them easier. What's more, with their zero magnification, MRSs are best used with both eyes open to maximize peripheral vision, depth of field and low-light capability. Eye relief is also unlimited, so there's never worry about mounting locations or getting “scope eye.” But perhaps most notable of all, mini-reflex sights make accurate handgun shooting possible for more people.



SMITH & WESSON M&P PRO SERIES C.O.R.E.

S&W offers the C.O.R.E. (Competition Optics Ready Equipment) in its M&P Pro Series line. The M&P9L and M&P40L competition models have long slides and 5" barrels; yet, at the time of this writing, the company also offers the closest thing yet to true optics-ready carry guns in its M&P9 and M&P40 Pro Series C.O.R.E. that weigh 24 ozs. with 4.25" barrels. These guns are the same as the non-C.O.R.E. models, except they feature taller sights, enhanced texture on the palm swell, C.O.R.E. engraving on the slide, and of course, the machined cutout on the slide that accommodates five mounting plates designed to fit the C-More CTS, Trijicon RMR, JP Rifles J Point, Leupold DeltaPoint, Docter and Insight MRDS. Other optics-ready models—such as the gun shown on p. 48 and on this month's cover—are offered in the Performance Center M&P Ported line.

In shooting the M&Ps, however, I found the taller sights were not tall enough to see through several different sights I tried. Nonetheless, the C.O.R.E. models are wonderful, low-profile, handguns that, like the rest, have no downside other than an extra hundred bucks. If you choose not to use the optic, just take it off and replace the hardly noticeable slide cover. Price: \$812. smith-wesson.com



PRESBYOPIA AND A GAME CHANGER

Presbyopia is the inevitable eye condition caused by aging that prevents the eye from focusing on close objects. I remember when my father said he could no longer see the rear sight, front sight and the squirrel all at the same time and so he had to defile his engraved Browning .22 by topping it with a 4X Weaver scope. Fortunately for him and millions like him, optics “flatten” the sight picture, allowing shooters to focus only on the target and then superimpose the reticle onto it. Focusing on the target is desirable for obvious reasons, such as target identification and anticipation of its movement. For shooters over the age of 40, the advent of mini-reflex sights for handguns may prove to be a game-changer.

What’s more, I’ve found that reflex-style sights will make you a better shooter, because slight imperfections in trigger squeeze and steadiness of hand are made obvious by movement of the glowing red dot. Koenig agrees.

“Red-dots simplify instruction because they allow the student to concentrate on the fundamentals—not keeping the sights aligned,” he said.

Finally, another advantage of some MRS-style sights over other optics is that the shooter can see the iron sights through them—so-called “cowitnessing”—as a backup sighting method. This is possible due to the sight’s low profile. It should be noted that most factory iron sights aren’t tall enough to see through an MRS, but they can be easily replaced with taller ones. If you draw and aim only to realize that the battery is dead or you forgot to turn

Smith & Wesson supplies different mounting plates (L.) for most standard (and some not so standard) reflex sights on its M&P C.O.R.E. (Competition Optic Ready Equipment) Military & Police pistols. Attach the plate to the slide and then the reflex to the plate.



Photo courtesy of Doug Koenig

Can red-dot sights help your shooting? Ask 16-time NRA Bianchi Cup Champion Doug Koenig. He says its faster because you have only one focal plane and your eyes are not jumping back and forth between the front and rear sight. Just put the dot on the target.

the unit on, simply use the iron sights through the MRS’ lens and fire away. It is this fact that gave me the confidence to place a mini-reflex on my own carry gun and not worry. Still, battery life is an issue, and that brings me to the next section, because MRSs are not without some trade-offs.

DISADVANTAGES

Most MRSs require batteries—usually one 2032 lithium type. Although some can be left on continuously for a year in moderate temperatures, the possibility exists for all models that the user could find the battery depleted, rendering the sight useless at precisely the wrong time. In addition, said Koenig, “If you have to shoot in a pouring

continued on p. 78



FN AMERICA FNX-45 TACTICAL

FN geared its new optics-ready gun to operators rather than competitors with its FNX-45 Tactical 15-round handgun. Like the others, the American-made gun features a machined cutout in the slide to mount a mini-reflex optic. It also includes sights that are amply tall for cowitnessing. The pistol, which features a 5.3” threaded barrel and weighs 33 ozs. unloaded, comes with two mounting plates to accommodate the RMR and the DeltaPoint. The polymer frame comes in black or flat dark earth. The company has already established itself as a maker of extremely durable polymer pistols, and the addition of an optics-ready gun only lends the line more versatility. Price: \$1,399. fnhusa.com



More Center-Fire For The Money

Led by the stylish new Patriot bolt-action, a well-rounded collection of value-priced Mossberg center-fire rifles has emerged from a maker best known for its shotguns and .22s.

BY JOHN ZENT, Editorial Director

H

ow prolific has Mossberg been at producing rimfire rifles? So prolific that the incomparably comprehensive *Blue Book of Gun Values* chose to cry “uncle” rather than include every last model in a section that still runs almost seven pages.

But even though millions of Americans have enjoyed plinking, hunting and competing with the ubiquitous Mossberg rimfires, that’s hardly the case with center-fire rifles from this 96-year-old manufacturer that also dominates in shotgun sales. Despite valiant efforts and some promising designs along the way, Mossbergs have never made much of a dent in big-game hunting, NRA High Power competition or tactical rifle circles.

That appears to be changing thanks to market dynamics that have been intelligently addressed by the company’s management and product developers. While the stable isn’t large, Mossberg now has promising entries in a few notable categories, all of them priced to make buyers take a hard look. Leading the charge is the bolt-action Patriot, a rifle whose classic good looks, functionality and solid workmanship are commanding as much attention as its affordability. Patriot sales have been hot throughout 2015, especially a combo offering that includes a mounted Vortex scope, and, somewhat surprisingly in this day and age, a walnut-stocked selection. But that’s not all. Another turnbolt, the MVP, can be readily modified for all sorts of tactical and hunting specialization, while the Model 464 is a lever-action so faithful to the form it makes one want to saddle up.

1965-1981: Private-Label Economics

Fifty years ago Mossberg entered the center-fire business at the urging of retail giant Montgomery Ward, whose private-label Western Field line largely consisted of Mossberg-made .22s and smoothbores. It was the heyday of the bolt-action hunting rifle, a time when American riflemen were trading up from military surplus and lever-actions. Winchesters and Remingtons ruled the roost, the new Ruger Model 77 was on the rise, and Savages, Weatherbys, Brownings and a slew of imports made for a rich buyer’s market.

Mossberg responded with the Model 800, borrowing elements from the company’s Model 385 shotgun and a turnbolt prototype fashioned by German immigrant gun designer Louis Seecamp, who later founded his own company to make pocket-size, semi-automatic pistols. The short-action design, initially chambered for .243 Win. and .308 Win., featured a solid-body, front-locking bolt with a hook extractor, bolt-face ejector and sliding tang safety. Counter to the prevailing dual, opposed locking-lug designs, the 800’s bolt boasted six lugs arranged in pairs 120 degrees apart, similar to that of standard-caliber Weatherby Mark Vs, except that the front lugs were more than twice the size of those in the rear.

The short 60-degree bolt lift aided cycling speed and eased scope mounting.

Mossberg’s half-century-long ambition to storm the center-fire rifle market hit a home run with the Patriot in 2015. Rather than following the standard development track, the company says it simply listened to customers’ requests for a traditional, walnut-stocked, affordable hunting rifle. High-volume sales affirm that American riflemen still have keen interest in the classic bolt-action.

Associate Technical Editor Ludwig Olson's favorable review in the August 1966 issue of *The American Rifleman* noted safety features such as the bolt's counterbored face and solid rear shroud, as well as the gun's fast lock time, while calling shooting test results "... exceptionally fine for a lightweight big-game rifle." At 7 lbs., 2 ozs., the Model 800 was not quite what we'd consider a lightweight rifle today, but its \$97.95 price tag certainly sounds reasonable.

The 800's run extended to nearly 150,000 guns under Mossberg, Western Field and other private-label brands, demand that eventually spawned the long-action Model 810, which also became a Western Field mainstay. The 810 chambered in-demand big-game cartridges such as .30-'06 Sprg., .270 Win. and 7 mm Rem. Mag., but did so in a redesigned receiver that relied on conventional opposed bolt lugs, a beefier extractor and a choice of drop-box or hinged magazines. Although it was a good-looking rifle, labor-intensive production methods reportedly ate into profitability, and the 810 series was discontinued after less than a decade.

Mossberg made a final run at bolt-gun sales in that early era with its Model RM7. That rifle's most interesting characteristic was touted as a "rotary" magazine, however our reviewer observed it was not a true spool-type like the Savage 99's, but instead "... a metal feed arm powered by a 'mousetrap' spring, which directs cartridges around a

curve in the magazine box ...". The review was otherwise quite positive, but nonetheless, the RM7 quickly vanished.

Also in the early 1970s, the company set its cap on lever-action sales, by then a two-horse race between the long-entrenched Winchesters and Marlin. Again, motivation came from partners that were the big-box stores of the day, principally Wards, but also Western Auto and Coast to Coast Hardware. When Mossberg completed development of the Model 472 .30-30 Win., Wards dropped its affiliation with Marlin.

Western Field carbines appeared first, and soon a rifle-length variant was added along with the .35 Rem. chambering. Both straight and pistol-grip stock styles were produced. Spent cases ejected on the side ala the scope-friendly Marlin 336, but the designers took safety a step further with a bilateral crossbolt safety, as well as an "intercept notch," both of which stopped the hammer fall short of the firing pin. Further innovation came by housing the trigger blade within the lever. When cycled in and out of battery, the trigger would ride along inside the guard, thus preventing pinched fingers and plausibly hastening follow-up shots. Unfortunately, Mossberg had to price its upgraded lever-action at \$10-15 over the better-known competition, which proved more than the market would bear.

2015: Make Way For The Patriot



By all accounts, the Patriot bolt-action has been selling extremely well since its formal introduction at the 2015 SHOT Show. On the surface, that success would seem to run counter to the industry-wide trends toward tactical styling and technological innovation. Instead, the Patriot looks like a classic from the 1960s and sticks with engineering prevalent to the affordable bolt-rifle category.

And that reflects the rifle's unique origin. According to Mossberg press relations manager Linda Powell, "The Patriot introduction did not go the more traditional route of an engineer bringing an idea to management or marketing research showing an interest in a particular category. We listened directly to our customers' requests for a more traditional, wood-stocked hunting rifle.

"Initial responses from our customers at last year's [wholesaler] shows told us that we had a home run, with the walnut Patriots and walnut/Vortex-scoped combos outselling other versions," said Powell.

Call it clean, conventional, old-school or even plain vanilla, the Patriot represents a look and a shooting platform that's been around for well over half a century and its reception affirms that America is not yet done with it, especially when it can be had for around \$500.

Mossberg's round-bodied receiver carries over to the Patriot and, as with predecessor models, its streamlined barrel nut is made to be tightened by a hook spanner and thus lacks the tooling indents that kept other brands off some critics' best-dressed lists. The bolt is a conventional design with twin locking lugs flanking a recessed face that houses a plunger ejector. The right-side lug bears a sliding-plate extractor and is slotted to ride in a thin guide rail along the receiver wall. The straight bolt handle ends in a flattened, oval knob encircled by a band of checkering, and a toggle left of the tang releases the bolt. Opposite a two-position pivoting safety, a projection on the bolt's left side is intended to prevent over-rotation. The bolt body is finished with attractive spiral fluting.

Decorative shallow fluting is also found on the barrel, extending 9½" from the fore-end tip nearly to the muzzle. Our synthetic-stocked test model, in .308 Win., was fitted with a No. 2 sporter contour, match-crowned, 22" barrel. The receiver's barrel nut secures a recoil lug whose rectangular underside mates into a slot molded into the stock. It measures



A Lineage Of Mossberg Center-Fire Rifles



MOSSBERG MODEL 800
1966



MOSSBERG MODEL 472
1972

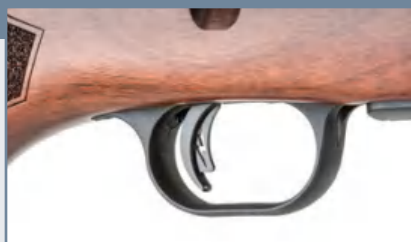


MOSSBERG RM7
1979

2005-2014: Opportunity Knocks

Though private-label economics weren't the motivation, no doubt Mossberg factored in potential sales through a new generation of big-box stores when it resumed center-fire rifle manufacturing shortly into the new century. Plenty of the company's shotguns and rimfires were selling through Cabela's, Bass Pro, Walmart and other retailers, so why not deer rifles?

Bolt-action center-fires returned to the Mossberg catalog at mid-decade, first the ATR, followed a few years hence by the 4x4, related models based on the round-bodied/barrel-nut-style receiver that is all the rage at present. The former came in three short- and two long-action calibers, was equipped with a simple but effective single-stage trigger and a blind magazine. Several camouflage patterns, along with black synthetic and walnut, were available for stock finishes, and in



1.34" wide by 0.20" thick. Those dimensions—and in fact the basic blueprint—haven't changed since Mossberg adopted this receiver design for the ATR in 2005.

The stock also comes with standard features, such as stippling panels that bracket the fore-end and grip areas, an integral trigger guard, detachable plastic magazine, sling swivel studs and a soft, generous buttpad. While such touches are all fairly typical, what's really worthy of attention—but tends to go unnoticed when rendered in plain black synthetic—are the stock's lines and proportions, which are actually quite graceful.

The rifle's attractiveness is naturally more apparent in its walnut-stocked variants like the one seen on these pages, but that goes beyond just the richness of wood grain and color.

I'm hardly the first to remark on the Patriot's "classic" lines, though there's no set definition for the term. The way it came together, said Powell, was that, "[After] the sales force brought the idea of an affordable, walnut, bolt-action hunting rifle with a classically styled stock, our engineering design team looked at many of the classics, their dimensions and overall appeal. From that, the Patriot was born."



The Patriot's round-body receiver is fitted with a dual-lug bolt, Mossberg's LBA adjustable trigger and a detachable plastic magazine. Caliber options from .22-250 Rem. to .375 Ruger represent the widest range ever offered by Mossberg.

addition to matte blue, metalwork could be had in Marinecote.

The 4x4 boasted many more caliber options—from varmint rounds to heavy hitters such as the Winchester Short Magnums and the .338 Win. Mag.—and it was the platform for introducing Mossberg’s take on the adjustable, lever-in-blade trigger, dubbed the Lightning Bolt Action (LBA). Often sold in combo packages with scopes mounted, both the ATR and 4x4 were discontinued a year ago.

Effectively, they paved the way for the MVP, introduced in 2011, another gun utilizing the round-bodied receiver, but one that made news with a chambering option in 5.56 NATO (as opposed to .223 Rem.) and the ability to accept AR-type magazines. Since then a large array of MVPs have emerged, mostly with features geared to the tactical generation. These include long-range, patrol, tactical, Scout, Flex and Light Chassis versions bearing Picatinny rails, flash hiders, adjustable stocks and other contemporary furniture.

Concurrent with the bolt-gun developments was a move to fill the void when upheaval at Winchester in 2006 resulted in shelving that firm’s legendary Model 94 lever-action. Mossberg was quick to jump in with a nicely made straight-grip carbine, unmistakably a Model 94 clone, but upgraded with a rear receiver bridge that added rigidity to the frame and made for more stable scope mounting. Covering the Model 464 intro for *American Rifleman*, former NRA Publications editor Dave Campbell said, “... an American-made, forged steel receiver

rifle that is handsome, well made and functions properly ... [for] less than \$500 is quite an accomplishment.” Campbell wasn’t shy in calling for a walnut option to the stained birch stock as well as a pistol-grip model, and eventually those two wishes were combined. Mossberg designers also thought way outside the box a few years later in conceiving the 464 SPX, with a stock treatment mimicking tricked-out AR rifles.

Mossberg’s Center-Fire Outlook

With the Patriot and MVP, it certainly appears Mossberg possesses a clear read on today’s bolt-gun spectrum, at least the end within reach of most gun owners. For a number of specialized uses, Mossberg can match or beat competitor pricing. And though I know many need to stretch their dollars, it’s also my belief that gun folks generally rate performance and features above cost, so ultimately it’s what happens on the range, in the field and on duty that’ll determine their future.

When it comes to lever-actions, it’s not clear to me if there’s much future beyond the nostalgia vote. The Model 464 certainly gets mine and perhaps more from my demographic, but that’s a small number. I think under-50 riflemen mostly see them as relics, but perhaps there are two glimmers of hope. First, you can empty a lever-action’s magazine faster than a bolt-action’s and in most cases the lever gun holds more rounds (albeit .30-30 vs. just about

2015: Make Way For The Patriot

Whatever examples inspired Mossberg designers, the end result closely follows a template offered up by the virtual father of the modern sporting rifle, Jack O’Connor.

In his *Complete Book of Rifles and Shotguns* (Harper Row, 1965), O’Connor argued for a comb that’s rounded, thick and is straight (level) front to back, with the same amount of drop at the heel as at the comb. He stated a preference for a small grip (circumference of 4½”) that follows a “slight, parabolic curve,” what we now refer to as an “open-radius” grip. In his view, the cheekpiece should be “flat ... about 5/8” thick at most.” A fore-end that’s 10” long and “fairly substantial” is ideal for rifles with 22” barrels, he said, whereas

buttplates (buttpads nowadays) should be “large and flat to minimize recoil by distributing it over a large area.”

Keeping those guidelines in mind, the Patriot stacks up as follows: grip is an open-radius measuring 3⅜” from the trigger to far point of the curve, while its smallest circumference is 5”; the comb is 1⅞” across and it slants only slightly, 1/4” variance from drop at comb to drop at heel; cheekpiece maximum thickness equals 9/16”; and the buttpad is 5¼” x 1⅞”. Indeed, the measurables are pretty close to O’Connor’s ideal.

What’s noteworthy is that these stock dimensions aren’t just aesthetic considerations, but also contribute to shootability. The former is a matter of taste, though a common enough

standard that it seemingly is helping to drive sales. But the latter can help drive sales, too, as early Patriot owners report positive experiences to friends.

I certainly found it a very slick-handling rifle, one that fit me well, and didn’t beat me up in the least during bench sessions with our .308 Win. test gun and a .300 Win. Mag. I encountered in hunting camp. The LBA trigger, set at a pull weight of 2 lbs., 2 ozs. from the factory, absorbed noticeable tension, but then broke in an instant. It’s owner-adjustable, and so following directions in the manual, I reset it to 1 lbs., 8 ozs., which would be great for offhand match shooting but too light for my liking in field use.

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

.308 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 10' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
REMINGTON 150-GR. CORE-LOKT ULTRA	2653 Avg. 22 Sd	2,345	1.55	2.98	2.23
NORMA 150-GR. TAC-308 FMJ	2602 Avg. 20 Sd	2,255	1.61	2.21	1.90
HORNADY 150-GR. SST	2756 Avg. 15 Sd	2,530	1.76	2.83	2.25
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.13

VELOCITY AVERAGE FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A SHOOTING CHRONY BETA CHRONOGRAPH 10 FT. FROM THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A BENCHREST. TEMPERATURE 69° F. HUMIDITY 51%. ABBREVIATIONS: PSP (POINTED SOFT-POINT); Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION); FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET); SST (SUPER SHOCK TIP).



A Lineage Of Mossberg Center-Fire Rifles



**MOSSBERG 4X4
2008**




**MOSSBERG ATR
2005**



**MOSSBERG MVP
2011**


A trio of Mossbergs proved to be the right stuff for an Alberta bear hunt. Flanking a Model 500 slug gun are a Model 464 lever-action and a walnut-stocked Patriot, all carrying Swarovski Z6i optics.

every other caliber). Of course ARs, AKs and the like are even faster and have much greater capacity, but you'll pay hell to find one that rides a fraction as comfortably in a saddle scabbard. The second chance periodically comes to

light on reality TV programs depicting life in the Alaskan bush, where it's not uncommon to see off-the-grid types toting lever-actions when they go out to check their live-stock, pick berries or pot a caribou. 

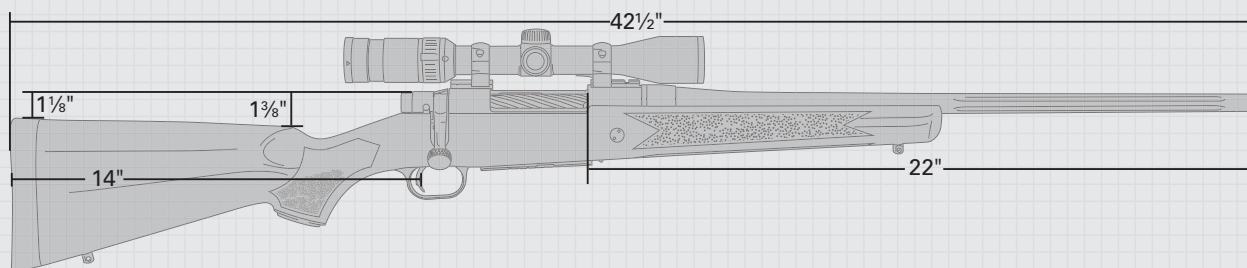
I did not like how the rifle shot initially, and so swapped scopes and then tried a succession of loads until I hit on one that grouped acceptably. With that one on paper, I went back to my first test load and, then, with an additional 80 rounds down the bore, it had settled in nicely for a light-weight hunting rifle shooting factory loads.

I'd like to see what kind of accuracy could be had from Patriots equipped with heavier barrels. While that's not yet an option, 10 model variants are already on tap, including walnut,

synthetic and laminate stocks, a Bantam youth model and more. Patriots are offered in 11 different chamberings, culminating in .375 Ruger, which means this is the first Mossberg truly geared for African dangerous game. Since returning to the bolt-action center-fire marketplace 10 years ago, the company has been proactive about churning out line extensions and always at bargain pricing. That flexibility will help ensure the Patriot holds its own in a market niche filled with fine models, and it doesn't hurt to be the best-looking of the lot. 

SPECS

MANUFACTURER: O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC. (DEPT. AR), 7 GRASSO AVE., NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473; (203) 230-5500; MOSSBERG.COM



CALIBER: .22-250 REM., .243 WIN., .25-'06 REM., .270 WIN., 7 MM-'08 REM., 7 MM REM. MAG., .308 WIN. (TESTED), .30-'06 SPRG., .300 WIN. MAG., .338 WIN. MAG., .375 RUGER

ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, REPEATING CENTER-FIRE RIFLE

RECEIVER: MATTE-BLUE STEEL

BARREL: 1:10" RH TWIST, FLUTED

MAGAZINE: FIVE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: NONE, DRILLED AND TAPPED FOR SCOPE MOUNTING

TRIGGER: LIGHTNING BOLT-ACTION ADJUSTABLE; 2-LB., 2-OZ. PULL

STOCK: BLACK SYNTHETIC

FINISH: MATTE BLUED

WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 5 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: WEAVER BASES, OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK

MSRP: \$386 (TESTED) TO \$811



FIRST FIRED IN ANGER?

In the early 1950s, a dapper and courtly Englishman told a fascinating tale to a budding young arms enthusiast, who was excited to have been invited to a luncheon with a number of older Los Angeles-area firearm aficionados. The gentleman, Donald B.H. Coates, claimed to be the first man ever shot at by someone armed with a Thompson submachine gun (TSMG).

While probably serving as an underage intelligence agent with the Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1921, Coates (later a soldier, Royal Auxiliary Air Force pilot, adventurer and noted pistol expert) claimed that, while on patrol in Dublin one night alongside the River Liffey, he was met with a withering burst of fully automatic gunfire. He naturally assumed that an Irish Republican Army (IRA) gunman had a Lewis light machinegun, but on searching the area in the daylight, he

found a pile of spent .45 ACP cases, instead of the expected .303 British brass.

According to Coates, he submitted an official report claiming to have been fired at by someone armed with a "select-fire M1911 Colt pistol." However, shortly thereafter, he and his fellow "Auxies" learned of an ambush on June 16, 1921, in which two Thompsons were used to shoot up several railway carriages of a troop train carrying a detachment of the Royal West Kent Regiment at the suburban Dublin station at Drumcondra. He now knew that the IRA gunmen had "Tommy Guns," and he assumed that one of them had used one of the submachine guns against him that night. Another attendee at that luncheon, Gordon Ingram, the inventor of the Mac-10 and Mac-11 submachine guns, duly recorded the story in his unpublished memoirs.

Some 20 years later, Coates again related the story to



THE THOMPSON

So, when was the Thompson submachine gun first fired in combat? Was it during the June 1921 West Virginia “coal wars” or perhaps even earlier?

BY KENNETH L. SMITH-CHRISTMAS

Photo of Thompson by Talmadge G. Rutledge; Background image of Dublin, Ireland, circa 1920; Library of Congress

another young fellow, an aspiring police officer, while Coates was repairing the sear on the young man's M1911A1 pistol. During an informal shooting match on the indoor range in the basement of arms author Tom Nelson's home in Virginia, the young man's pistol had suddenly gone into intermittent full-automatic mode, and was firing three-round bursts. The malfunction reminded Coates of the story he had told years earlier in California. However, this time Coates had more to tell about the incident in Dublin. As he replaced the faulty sear on the pistol, he told the young man why he had originally reported being fired at by a select-fire M1911 pistol.

Shortly before the incident on the Dublin quays, Coates had pursued an IRA suspect into a house in the city. The lady of the house was well known to Coates (he didn't specify why), and as he searched the home, he found a

double shoulder holster rig under a coat, hanging on a hall rack. In the holsters were two specially modified select-fire M1911s—each one with a thumb selector lever. When he asked the lady about the owner of the guns, she replied that they belonged to “an American gentleman who was visiting from Chicago.” Coates, who had turned 17 a few weeks earlier, assumed that an Irish gangster from Chicago was staying there, but since there were no rules against foreigners having such pistols, he did not confiscate the guns. After the incident on the quays, but before he learned of Tommy guns being used at Drumcondra, Coates now figured that the owner of the two pistols was not a gangster after all (the Irish mob was being pushed aside by the Italian Mafia at that time in Chicago), but rather an IRA gunman, and that the owner of the pistols was most likely the man who had shot at him that night.

THE THOMPSON

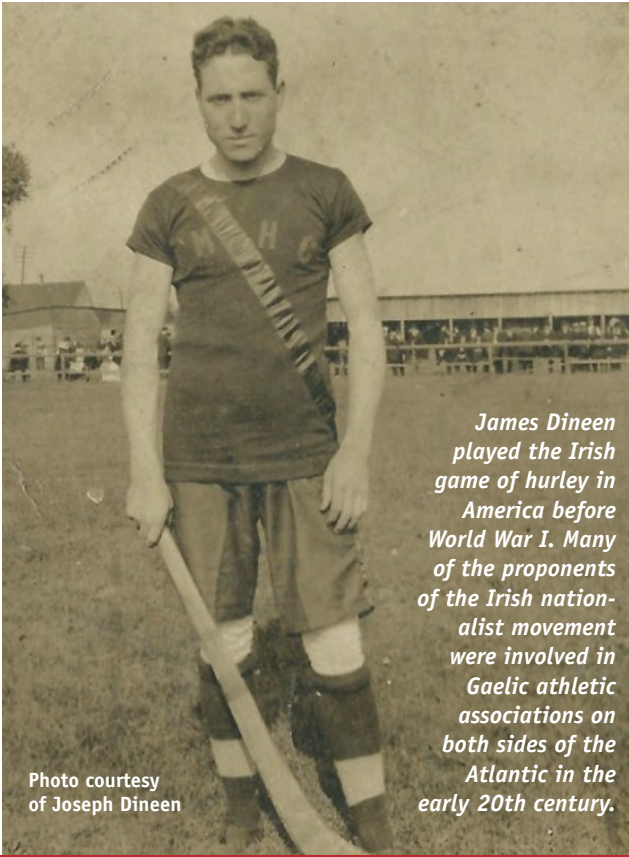


Photo courtesy
of Joseph Dineen

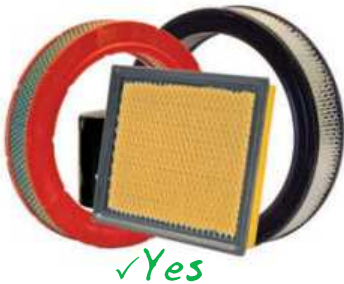
James Dineen played the Irish game of hurling in America before World War I. Many of the proponents of the Irish nationalist movement were involved in Gaelic athletic associations on both sides of the Atlantic in the early 20th century.

Two "American gentlemen from Chicago," James Dineen and his cousin, Patrick Cronin, brought at least two Thompsons to Ireland in May 1921. Both Dineen and Cronin were former U.S. Army officers who had fought in France with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, as well as having seen earlier service on the Mexican border. After landing in Ireland, they demonstrated the Thompsons to a group of IRA luminaries—including Michael Collins and Tom Barry—on May 24 in a disused tunnel outside Dublin. They were staying in downtown Dublin at 2 Wilson's Place, in a house a short walk south of the River Liffey.

Oscar Traynor, the commander of the IRA forces at the May 25 attack on the Dublin Customs House, acknowledged that his force had a "machine gun," but maintained that, "for some unknown reason," it had not been brought into play during the battle. The British already had several TSMGs in Dublin, which had been ordered for "testing" by Maj. Hugh Pollard, a senior intelligence officer in Dublin and a noted arms authority. According to research by Pollard's biographer, Michael Curran, Maj. Pollard did claim that the IRA used a TSMG at the Customs House fight.

However, in the early hours of June 9, 1921, the IRA launched a major night attack on the "Forces of the Crown" alongside the river in Dublin, exactly as Coates described

continued on p. 88



✓Yes



✓Yes



✗No



✓Yes



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HOW SCOPE ADJUSTMENTS WORK

This cutaway Leupold VX-6 reveals the relatively sophisticated internal construction of a modern-day, high-quality riflescope. Not only is there an erector tube assembly with its own set of optical lenses, there is a mechanical system of turrets and springs that effect user-input changes to the scope's parallax, windage and elevation adjustments.

Today's riflescopes are better than ever, but most users don't know how they work. To understand what happens when you turn those dials, take a peek inside—you might be surprised.

BY JOHN BARNES, FIELD EDITOR



“Windage and elevation, Mrs. Langdon, windage and elevation.” That sage advice came from Col. John Henry Thomas (John Wayne) in “The Undeclared,” a film set in the era immediately after the Civil War, but it seems particularly appropriate today, when many shooters prefer adjusting their scopes for windage and elevation.

Modern scopes adjust for point-of-impact by turning two knobs, one on top of the scope for elevation, the other on the side for windage. The knobs that the shooter turns are actually the tops of screws pressing against an erector assembly, which consists of a second tube with optical lenses that lies inside the main scope tube.

The erector tube's function is partly optical, “erecting” the image: If a scope only contained the convex lenses at each end, the image would appear upside down, making aiming somewhat difficult. This inversion can be easily demonstrated by looking through two magnifying glasses in approximately the same positions as a scope's front and rear lenses, the first a couple inches from your eye and the

other about a foot away. The erector tube usually contains several lenses and, as it is adjusted from side-to-side within the scope, affects the firearm's point of impact.

Only the rear end of the erector tube connects directly to the main exterior tube, usually with a two-axis gimbal, a pivoting frame. Before Google Earth, most people were familiar with the two-axis gimbals on the map models of our planet called globes. The gimbals allowed globes to both spin and tilt, so we could easily examine places from Antarctica to Zanzibar. An erector tube doesn't spin, but does need to move horizontally and vertically inside the scope.

A spring system presses the erector tube against the bottoms of the windage and elevation screws. When the adjustment screws are turned inward, they push the erector tube against the spring system; when the screws are backed off, the spring system moves the tube.

This sounds simple and foolproof, but in most rifle scopes the pair of adjustment screws sit at what a target shooter would call 12 o'clock and 3 o'clock, and a flat

HOW RIFLESCOPES WORK

spring sits opposite the adjustment turrets at approximately 7 o'clock, between the erector tube and the main tube. A single spring can't provide nearly as much push as the two adjustment screws, and, as a result, the erector tube may not move when the adjustments are backed off.

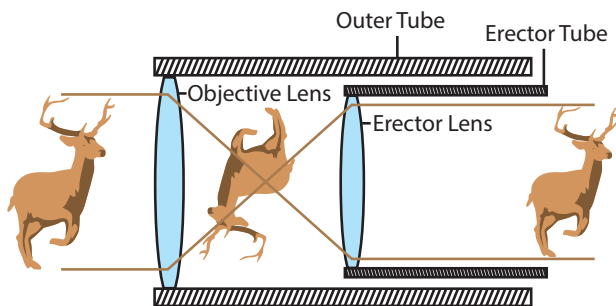
As an example, while sighting-in, a shooter fires a three-shot group at 100 yds., centered 4" low and 3" left of the aiming point. The shooter then turns the adjustments 4" high and 3" right, but the fourth shot lands in the original group, because the erector tube didn't move.

The recoil of the fourth shot, however, jars the erector tube against the adjustment screws, where the spring was supposed to push the erector in the first place. But the shooter doesn't realize this, so he or she adjusts the scope again. The fifth shot may end up at the aiming point, but

the sixth shot probably won't, because the recoil knocked the erector tube loose again.

Such erratic adjustments were common in early internal-adjustment scopes, partly because they often had 3/4" or 7/8" tubes, and thus provided little room for a strong spring. However, as recently as the early 1990s one optically superb and fairly expensive brand of scope had really weak adjustment springs. After the scopes were sighted-in they worked great, but getting them there could be a real trial. Sometimes two or even three shots needed to be fired to really settle the scope down. I had several such scopes but eventually sold them, using the money to buy scopes that could be sighted-in without firing an entire box of ammunition, even if their optics weren't quite as good.

This is why some shooters (particularly those of a certain age) tap the dials with an empty cartridge case after any adjustment. Many don't understand the mechanical reason for the tapping ritual, just that it's supposed to help the adjustments "take," but it's not always necessary. American-style scopes (including those made in China) have adjustments with right-hand threads. When we turn the dials clockwise, like we're tightening a bolt, the screw underneath



The erector assembly is necessary for the scope to render the image in its correct vertical and horizontal position.

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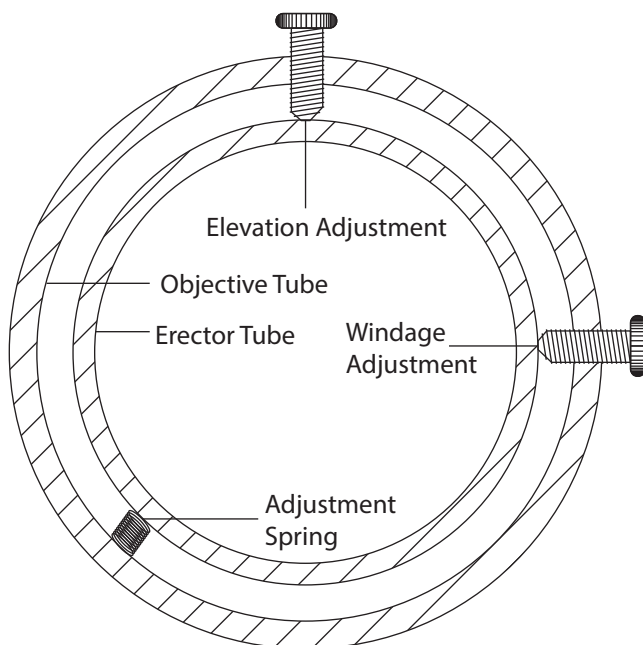
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the dial pushes directly against the erector tube, firmly shoving the erector tube in the direction it's supposed to go.

Problems occur only when we turn the dial counter-clockwise, and erector-tube movement depends on the spring. Tapping the dial afterward can then knock a balky erector tube loose, allowing the spring to shove it against the adjustment screws—but so can bumping a rifle's recoil pad on the ground, simulating recoil. However, some European scopes have left-threaded adjustments, another reason many shooters always tap the adjustments no matter which way they're turned.

You can often see these parts by peering inside the objective lens of your scopes with the help of a flashlight. The erector tube is always visible, and the adjustment spring sometimes appears as well, though often you have to back the adjustment screws all the way out before the erector tube moves enough to reveal the spring. In many scopes the erector tube barely extends past the turrets, and you can see not only the spring but the ends of the adjustment screws.

The big trick is to clean the objective lens thoroughly before taking a look, because even a little dust creates a lot of flare, but before scopes were thoroughly sealed against outside moisture, most could be easily taken apart at home. Which is exactly why some ended up back at the factory after their curious owners couldn't put them back together.



This simplified drawing illustrates the basic mechanical functions of a modern riflescope. The windage and elevation adjusters press against the erector tube assembly on two different axes, and a spring forces the tube against them, keeping it in position.

Illustrations by David J. Labrozzi



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HOW RIFLESCOPES WORK

Thanks to the appearance of affordable laser rangefinders in the late 1990s, even the adjustments of many lower-priced scopes work far more reliably than those earlier models, because so many shooters want to run the elevation dials of their scopes up and down. However, accurate adjustments on lower-priced scopes don't hold up to that kind of repetitive use.

A few years ago a certain scope company sent several shooting writers samples of a brand-new scope with a very affordable price. The adjustments on mine were precisely repeatable, even compared to some far more expensive scopes, and within a few months I'd heard the same thing

from other writers. I still have that scope, but the adjustments aren't what they used to be.

The reason the adjustments don't work as reliably now, of course, is the erector-tube spring has weakened with time and use. This often happens, especially on scopes designed to be simply sighted-in and left that way, rather than dialed for different ranges. The reason is simple economics—most shooters don't want to pay for adjustment springs that stay strong forever.

When new, the clicks on that scope felt pretty crisp, and on calm days, with no one yacking at me, I could even hear them through my earmuffs, which is saying something for an "experienced" shooter. However, contrary to what many shooters believe, the clicks of adjustment dials aren't connected to the erector-tube spring. Instead, clicks are created by notches around the perimeter of the dial, combined with a tiny spring in each adjustment turret. In many older scopes this was obvious, because the click spring stood right out in the open, next to the notched edge of the dial, but today both the spring and notches are hidden inside the turret.

In earlier scope designs, the ends of the adjustment screws pressed against the erector tube. In modern, high-quality scopes, however, there's typically an interface installed at the end of the screw.



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Like an erector-tube spring, a dial spring can weaken with use, and the notches around the dial can wear, resulting in mushy clicks and slightly erratic adjustments. Scopes with consistent and long-lasting adjustments use strong erector and turret springs, combined with adjustment click-notches that don't wear after relatively little use.

Some scopes use a pair of flat erector springs, and a few feature a coil spring housed in a little "knob" at the 7-o'clock position opposite the adjustment turrets. Some place the spring system at the rear end of the erector tube, leaving more room inside the scope for either larger lenses or more adjustment range. Several Swarovski scopes have coil springs in the rear end of the erector tube, and in some Simmons scopes the entire rear end of the erector tube is essentially a spring.

Accuracy of adjustments, however, is also affected by the size of the erector and main tubes, especially at the extremes of adjustment range. This wasn't as much of a problem in the days when shooters sighted-in rifles and then left their scopes alone, but when we click the elevation adjustment to shoot at long range, the contact point of the windage screw may meet the curvature of the erector tube at a slight angle.

This can also happen when a scope's not aligned reasonably closely with the bore. Even if there's enough scope adjustment to sight-in, point-of-impact may not track perfectly straight along horizontal and vertical lines, one reason



An angled cam pin track causes the lenses inside an erector tube assembly to move fore and aft, changing the magnification of the scope. These mechanical assemblies have become even more precise and sophisticated in recent years with the advent of wide zoom ratios—some as great as eight to one. They also are a factor in the increase of tube body sizes, which, through the years, have grown from 3/4" to 34 mm.

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HOW RIFLESCOPES WORK

tube diameters of internally-adjustable scopes have increased since they started becoming popular in the 1930s. Back then, most American scopes had 3/4" or 7/8" tubes, and unless precisely mounted in line with the bore the adjustments could work in strange ways. A larger scope diameter allows the use of a larger erector tube, providing a broader area of contact for the adjustment screws.

The highest and best use of an optical collimator isn't sighting-in a rifle, since we can do that through old-fashioned bore-sighting. Instead, a collimator helps us to align our scope with the bore during mounting, then precheck the adjustments before going to the range, by watching the reticle's movement across the collimator grid while turning the adjustments.

Many of the "faulty" adjustments shooters supposedly encounter in new scopes are actually the result of poor mounting alignment. I mount a lot of scopes every year, including some old ones, and in small-diameter scopes the moving reticle can perform interesting gymnastics. Some even follow S-curves when only one adjustment dial is turned, and smaller curves aren't uncommon even in modern scopes at the extremes of their adjustment range.

Also, despite modern computer machinery, the final assembly of scopes is performed by humans. New scopes sometimes have machining marks or tiny bits of grit on their adjustment threads, creating slight hitches in the reticle's movement. These aberrations can often be eliminated by turning the adjustment dials all the way through their range a few times.

Some scopes, like this Burris, use a single spring mounted at the "7:30" position (arrow) to counteract the force of the adjustments.



Photo by author

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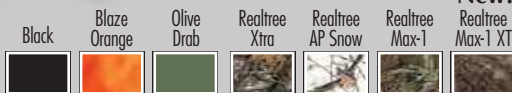
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HOW RIFLESCOPES WORK

Many shooters feel compelled to tighten ring screws like they tighten lug nuts on their pickup, because they worry about the scope shifting in the mounts due to the vicious recoil of their .243 Win. Well, if you really tighten those rings, the erector tube may not be able to shift inside the scope the way it's supposed to—another reason for erratic adjustments in scopes “right out of the box.” Torque specifications for scope rings are measured in inch-pounds and *not* foot-pounds.

I've even seen variable scopes turned into fixed-powers by gorilla-tightening, and the adjustments of variables are also more commonly affected than those in fixed-power scopes. Variables change magnification by sliding the erector lenses lengthwise inside the erector tube. This requires yet another tube outside the regular erector tube, with angled slots to cam the lenses back and forth, leaving less room inside the main tube than the single-wall erector tube of fixed-power scopes.

If you crush a variable scope even slightly while tightening the mounting rings, the erector tube won't be able to move as much during windage and elevation adjustments. It may also move erratically, or even “jump” to a different position during the rifle's recoil, like the erector tube in a scope with a weak erector spring.

The extra cam tube is the reason variable scopes usually allow less windage and elevation adjustment than fixed-power scopes of the same basic design. It's also why scopes with 30-mm body tubes have become popular among longer-range shooters: There's more room inside the main tube for the erector tube to move up and down. Of course, this depends to a certain extent on how each company engineers their scopes, and relatively few make fixed-power scopes today.

Today's riflescopes are superior to those of even a generation ago, both optically and mechanically. Still, understanding how they work can help us get the most out of what they have to offer. 🦋

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Shortly after Sturm, Ruger & Co.'s 1999 introduction of its .22 WMR-chambered Model 10/22 Magnum, Magnum Research, Inc., rolled out its U.S.-made Magnum Lite Rifle (MLR) in the same chambering. Ironically, when production of the Model 10/22 Magnum ceased in 2006, the MLR not only began filling the former's niche, but, according to the *Blue Book of Gun Values, Thirty-Fourth Edition*, the 10/22 Magnum's receiver was also used in the manufacture of some MLRs. Since that time, the .22 WMR MLR has been offered in an array of configurations, with the most recent being the Magnum Lite Rifle .22 WMR Barracuda American Black Walnut (MLR22WMBW) variant reviewed here.

The rifle's foundation is a CNC-machined, anodized-aluminum receiver measuring $6\frac{3}{4}$ " in length and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. A $1\frac{1}{8}$ " extension at its front serves as the attachment point for the steel V-block that secures the barrel via two screws. Integral to the receiver is a $6\frac{3}{16}$ "-long rail that accepts Weaver-style scope rings. A series of holes and scalloping on the rail enhance the rifle's aesthetics. Overall, the machining of the receiver was consistent and featured few tooling marks, however, there were two exceptions. At the rear of the rail there was unevenness, and internally the left receiver had several deep, unsightly gouges. Safety wouldn't be compromised but, for a rifle approaching \$1,000 in price, we expected more attention to detail.

The polymer fire-control housing is attached to the receiver via two cross pins. Contained within is the bolt-lock lever, extended magazine-release lever, two-position cross-bolt safety and trigger. With the exception of the bolt-lock lever, the other controls are made from polymer. The single-stage trigger broke at 4 lbs., 4 ozs. with slight creep but no overtravel. The magnum MLR22 uses nine-round-capacity detachable Ruger 10/22 Magnum rotary magazines, and the extended magazine-release lever facilitates efficient magazine changes. Whereas the rear of the magazine's steel feed lips provide ejection, extraction is achieved via a spring-tensioned hook extractor.

Considered a gas-assisted, blow-back-operated rifle, several inter-related features are needed to ensure safe, reliable functioning with a range of .22 WMR loads. However, ammunition with bullets weighing less

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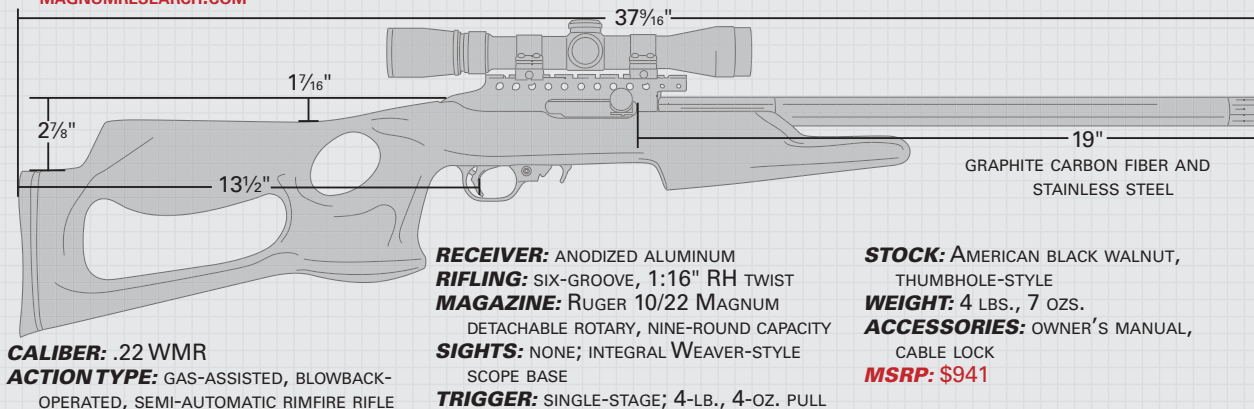
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HORNADY CD 45-GR. FTX	1646 Avg. 32 Sd	271	0.71	1.15	0.96
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					0.91

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FROM A 19" BARREL OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS PROCHRONO DIGITAL CHRONOGRAPH. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A CALDWELL 7 REST. TEMPERATURE: 84° F. HUMIDITY: 67%. ABBREVIATIONS: CD (CRITICAL DEFENSE), FTX (FLEX TIP EXPANDING), GP (GAME POINT), JSP (JACKETED SOFT POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), TMJ (TOTAL METAL JACKET).

A carbon fiber barrel reduces overall weight and enshrouds a steel bore liner. A stainless cap and 11-degree crown protect the rifled liner at the muzzle.



MANUFACTURER: MAGNUM RESEARCH, INC. (DEPT. AR), 12602 33RD AVE. S.W., PILLAGER, MN 56473; (508) 635-4273;
MAGNUMRESEARCH.COM



The Barracuda-style Magnum Lite Rifle presents a unique, but purpose-driven profile. From the carbon fiber and steel barrel to the swells, windows and ledges of the black walnut stock, the MLR22WMBW incorporates components that save weight and promote accuracy.

than 40 grs. cannot be used in this model—a stipulation that eliminates most of the new high-performance and leadless loads. Concerning its features, the rifle has a beefy steel bolt with a 0.735"-wide charging handle also made from steel that must be in place during firing. Obviously, the bolt's mass, along with recoil spring tension, is essential to the blowback operation. Additionally, the barrel has a small venting hole through which some gas is bled into a steel, rectangular-shaped block that then disperses excess gas through its 21 holes. The vented gas flows into the barrel channel of the stock. According to the instruction manual, the barrel's vent helps to equalize the timing of peak pressure variances in .22 WMR ammunition and the gas dispersion block must not be removed. Because of the vent/gas dispersion block requirement, aftermarket barrels cannot be used.

The 0.920"-wide, 19"-long sightless barrel is comprised of unidirectional graphite carbon fiber and stainless steel. The latter material is employed in critical areas, including: lining (bore), muzzle, and near the receiver, where the chamber, V-block, vent hole and gas-dispersion block are found. To protect the rifling, the barrel lining stops just shy of the muzzle's steel cap, which features an 11-degree crown. Further, the rear of the receiver has a hole through which a rifle rod can pass (once disassembled, of course) to facilitate chamber-to-muzzle cleaning, an additional safeguard for the rifling. The barrel's graphite/stainless steel junctions

are seamless, and the combination of materials contributes to the gun's light, 4-lb., 7-oz. heft.

The MLR22WMBW is named for the "Barracuda" thumbhole stock. Although offered since the first MLRs debuted in 1997, to date, only colored-laminate versions were available. For 2015, the company began offering the stock in American black walnut. For average-size hands, the unconventional design has a near-perfect fit and feel; the thumbhole, palm swell and flared shelf at the bottom of the pistol grip are quite comfortable and provide a rock-solid hold. Behind the pistol grip, a fair bit of wood is removed to save weight, and the comb

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.


exhibits considerable slope to align the eye with an optic. Capping the butt is a 1/4"-thick rubber recoil pad with slight tackiness. Three-and-one-half inches forward of the receiver the fore-end angles downward and continues forward without touching the barrel, therefore, much of the barrel is free-floating. The floating barrel probably improves accuracy, and definitely speeds heat dissipation during extended range sessions. Immediately forward of the magazine the stock is a wide, 2.18" in diameter. Lefties beware, the stock design is not bilateral.

For testing, we topped the Model MLR22WMBW with a Weaver Grand Slam 4-16X 44 mm riflescope in Weaver Grand Slam rings and shot five, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from

a Caldwell 7 Rest using three different loads. Of the loads, the most accurate proved to be CCI's 40-gr. GamePoint, which had both the smallest single group (0.53") and five-group average (0.75"); however, all three of the ammunition types provided satisfactory accuracy. During testing, the evaluation arm experienced four malfunctions, all of which occurred with the Hornady load. There was one failure to feed and three "stovepipes" (half ejection).

Testing in the direct sunlight during a hot summer day, the graphite/stainless steel barrel heated surprisingly quickly, though the cooling time was less than with an all-metal barrel. Still, vertical stringing occurred as the barrel heated. Additionally, the evaluators liked the Barracuda stock

design; specifically, when cheekweld was established, the eye automatically aligned with the scope, and the pistol grip is dimensionally correct for maximum control and comfort. Lastly, that the rifle uses Ruger's rotary magazine is a bonus.

The Model MLR22WMBW is not for everyone; hunters who pursue small game and predators in areas requiring lead-free ammunition will need to look elsewhere, as the rifle cannot safely and reliably use lightweight leadless loads. But for shooters and hunters who pine for a .22 WMR-chambered semi-automatic rifle to use in places without such restrictions, the MLR Barracuda is certainly worth a look. It offers a unique blend of traditional and high-tech features with good performance. 

Vortex Razor HD GEN II 3-18X 50 mm



Purpose-built long-range riflescopes are a breed apart from typical variable-power optics. Proficient distance-goers not only demand capability-enhancing features but, in the course of practicing their craft, they impart punishment that can break down lesser-quality optics. Trustworthy manufacturers know that cutting corners to save costs isn't an option. An example of a premium, all-encompassing, long-range riflescope is the subject of this review, Vortex Optic's new Razor HD GEN II 3-18X 50 mm.

Not unlike most current long-range riflescopes, the Japanese-made

Razor HD GEN II 3-18X has a one-piece, 34-mm main tube machined from aircraft-grade aluminum, which is then hard-coat-anodized with a low-glare finish. The large-diameter tube allows for increased adjustment range—120 and 69 m.o.a. for elevation and windage, respectively, or 35 and 20 milliradians (mils). But, the additional material also contributes to the 14^{3/8}"-long scope's hefty 46.5 oz. weight. Vortex provides aluminum, Picatinny-base rings with the scope. Considering that many 34-mm rings cost in excess of \$200, that's no small "extra." However, they were too low

to use on our selected test platform, a Lancer L30 Heavy Metal. Whereas the rear mounting section of the main tube is 2.2", the forward section is a mere 2.0"—leaving little wiggle room to account for proper eye relief.

Vortex Optics wisely chose a 50-mm objective lens diameter for the Razor HD GEN II 3-18X. Whereas larger objective lenses offer slight increases in light-gathering power and thus resolution, they also require rings at heights that make consistent cheekweld difficult to achieve and maintain. This is especially problematic on AR-style arms featuring a buttstock without an adjustable cheekpiece. But, as its name suggests, the Razor HD GEN II's index-matched lenses are made from high-density (HD), extra-low-dispersion glass, which enhances image sharpness, brightness and color fidelity, so brightness lost to the smaller objective is offset. Additionally, the lenses are fully multi-coated for maximum brightness and light transmission. The exterior lenses have ArmorTek, a scratch-, oil- and debris-resistant

coating. O-ring seals prevent water and particulates from entering, while argon purging removes oxygen to prevent internal fogging.

The illuminated, glass-etched reticle is located in the first focal plane, therefore, the reticle's scale in proportion to the image remains unchanged throughout the entire magnification range. Constant subtensions permit accurate ranging, holdovers and wind-deflection corrections at all magnification settings. Moreover, the reticle appears thicker at high-magnification settings and thinner at lower ones. Powered by a CR2032 battery (included), reticle illumination is adjusted via an 11-setting rheostat located on the parallax-adjustment turret. In between brightness settings are Off positions. To adjust, simply pull out the checkered dial, rotate it to the desired intensity (or Off) and push it back in.

Two variants of the EBR-2C reticle are available; they differ only in that one employs m.o.a.-based subtension lines while the other uses mils. The reticle chosen will determine if turret adjustment "clicks" are valued at 1/4 m.o.a. or 0.1 mils each. Regardless of the EBR-2C reticle selected though, to utilize the scope to its fullest requires not only knowing the various subtensions, but also the ranging formulas, the firearm's exact ballistics (trajectory, wind deflection, etc.), and ability to accurately determine the wind speed, among other things.



As is expected with a long-range, tactical-style rifle scope approaching \$3,000, the Razor HD GEN II 3-18X has a zero-stop feature coined L-Tec. Readyng the system is simple; with the push/pull-style locking turrets' "0" indexed with the reference marks on the turret bodies, the turret caps are loosened and removed, and then the three setscrews on each cap perimeter are backed out. This frees the brass center screws to make adjustments. Unlimited zero-setting positions permit the zero to be set between clicks for optimal accuracy. Once sighted, the order is reversed and the return-to-zero feature is set. The turrets' large numbers and lines are easily read, and particularly helpful are the "L" and "R" designations on the windage dial. Also beneficial is the external rotation indicator, which provides a quick visual and tactile index of the elevation turret's rotational position. A multi-tool is provided to make all of the aforementioned adjustments.

Company literature states that the erector tube system is machined from brass alloy to prevent galling, and the polished, chromium-vanadium erector spring withstands compression and has high fatigue resistance. Moreover, heat-treated, hardened steel pads on the turret screw interact with a hardened steel ring on the erector tube to prevent galling or deformation of the turret screw.

As with the parallax-adjustment turret, which adjusts from 25 yds. to infinity, the machined-aluminum magnification band has sufficient tension to prevent unintended movement. A fast-focus eyepiece rounds out the scope.

Testing of the Vortex Razor HD GEN II 3-18X 50 mm began by placing

SPECS

IMPORTER: VORTEX OPTICS (DEPT. AR), 2120 W. GREENVIEW DRIVE, MIDDLETON, WI 53562; (800) 426-0048;

VORTEXOPTICS.COM

RETICLE: FIRST-FOCAL-PLANE, ETCHED, ILLUMINATED EBR-2C (M.O.A. OR MILS)

ADJUSTMENT: L-TEC TURRETS WITH ZERO-STOP

MAIN TUBE DIAMETER: 34 MM

FIELD OF VIEW: 37.8 FT. (3X)-6.25 FT. (18X) @ 100 YDS.

EXIT PUPIL (MM): 9.5 (3X)-2.78 (18X)

OBJECTIVE APERTURE: 50 MM

EYE RELIEF: 3.7"

ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT: 120 M.O.A., 35 MILS (TESTED)

WINDAGE ADJUSTMENT: 69 M.O.A., 20 MILS (TESTED)

CLICK VALUE: 1/4 M.O.A., 0.1 MILS (TESTED)

LENGTH: 14.4"

WEIGHT: 46.5 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, SUNSHADE, LENS CLOTH, LENS COVERS, ADJUSTMENT TOOL

MSRP: \$2,800

the scope in the freezer overnight, followed by submersion in warm water. There was only minute internal fogging (purging cannot eliminate all oxygen) and, absent bubbles, there were no signs of leakage. This was to be expected. We then mounted the scope atop a Lancer L30 Heavy Metal in 34-mm Weaver rings and shot the square. We found the 0.1-mil clicks to be correct in value and, equally important, the movements were consistent and repeatable. This is essential for applying ranging data and returning to zero. Adjustments were crisp with no play encountered between settings. Lastly, when compared to two other optics with comparable price tags in differing light conditions, the Razor HD's superior brightness, resolution and color fidelity were apparent. Frankly, there was nothing about the scope that needed refinement or changing. The rings, however, need to be taller.

In the optics marketplace, the high-dollar, premium long-range rifle scope is assuredly among the smallest niches. In this small, crowded and demanding field, competition is fierce, but with products such as the Razor HD GEN II 3-18X 50, it's little wonder why Vortex Optics is among the few serious competitors. ★



Long-range shooters demand full control of their optics, and the Razor HD accommodates them with magnification and focal rings near the ocular lens (L.). Three turrets allow for dialing windage and elevation, along with parallax and reticle intensity (top).

rain, a red-dot sight may put you at a disadvantage.” Also, for as durable and compact as MRSs have become, iron sights still lay the wood to them in both departments. Finally, until recently, mounting an MRS to a handgun meant taking a drill to your new baby. But that last point is well on its way to being a thing of the past.

In 2013 Smith and Wesson released its M&P C.O.R.E. (Competition Optics Ready Equipment) models. Engineers added a couple steps into the CNC-machining process to cut out a 1.92"-long notch in the rear portion of the slide, just ahead of the rear sight dovetail and aft of the ejection port. Then the slide is drilled and tapped to accommodate screws for the five included adaptor plates that match up to several different styles of reflex sights with various footprints and mounting points. The plates feature small studs, or posts, that correspond to holes in the slide and the optic to prevent the sight from shifting laterally. To mount an MRS, simply remove the slide cover, choose the correct plate, secure it to the slide with two included machine screws, then screw the sight onto the plate. Once mounted, the mini-reflex sight is recessed into the slide so it has a lower profile; mounting is quick and secure. Other companies, such as Glock, have emulated this plate adapter system. As a result, optics companies anticipate increased demand and are currently addressing the sights' aforementioned disadvantages.

For example, Trijicon's Dual Illuminated RMR, with its Tritium backup light source, works regardless of a battery. Some units, like Bushnell's First Strike, feature a solenoid that cuts the unit off when the cover is placed on it and dims it in low light, thereby saving battery life. Leupold's DeltaPoint features Motion Sensor Technology that turns itself off after five minutes of inactivity then immediately turns back on when jostled. Others like Burris' Fast Fire 3 feature a button for auto-dimming, but on/off is manual. C-More's CTS features an innovative cover that is attached to a belt-mounted lanyard. When the gun is drawn, the cover pops off, turning the sight on. Raindrops be damned.

USES AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

As Koenig has proven many times over, mini-reflex sights are superior for "open class" competition, but what about for other purposes?

Using them for concealed carry isn't as far-fetched as it seemed a few years ago. I mounted an EOTech MRDS on an M&P9L (Longslide), and I was surprised at how concealable

it is. My preferred carry method is a small-of-the-back holster inside the waistband. The mini-reflex rests just above my waistband, and does not print under a T-shirt. Ignorantly, I removed the iron sights thinking it'd be one less thing to snag, but after shooting and carrying the gun I quickly learned that a necessity of carrying a reflex-equipped gun is having the ability to cowitness, or see the iron sights through the lens in order to aim if the sight goes down.

I suspect sights will get smaller, and slide recesses will get deeper, allowing the sights to rest even lower to the bore and reducing the number of edges that could catch on clothing. Certainly, large, long-slide pistols such as the Glock G40 MOS are not the first choice of most CCW holders, but other models, such as SIG's P320 RX and the 4.25"-barreled M&P are well within the realm of concealed carry. Keep in mind, this is just the first wave of optics-ready guns.


For hunting, I mounted a Burris Fast Fire 3 on a Glock G40 MOS. It doesn't require a special holster and only adds 2 ozs. to the gun. With a solid rest, my 50-yd. groups shrunk from 4.5" to 2.5", and my 100-yd. groups were held within the 6" circle of a whitetail's vitals. With iron sights, my groups at that range could hardly be called groups.

Despite these things, I still I had a few concerns. One, would it stay zeroed at all times? I have not had one break or lose zero yet, although the 10 mm Auto Glock G40 loosened the screws on a Trijicon RMR—now I always use Lock-Tite. I also found that the tiny machine screws that hold the optic onto the slide cannot go too deeply into the thin metal of the slide as they could strip out. So take great care not to overtighten them during installation.

Many units feature an auto-brightness setting, and for most applications it's the way to go—but not always. Dimming the dot also makes it smaller, allowing more precise aiming. So aiming in bright light (when you must make the dot big and bright) at long range is difficult.

When shooting from the draw, at first it's rather easy to pull up, find the target in the optic, but not the red dot. Usually it's floating around higher than you think, and so you must push the barrel down to see it. After a few minutes of practice, I got it down; now it's natural.

In time I believe that mini-reflex-ready slides on handguns will be as common as Picatinny rails on rifles. And that is a good thing, as it gives shooters more options.

"There used to be professionals who were skeptical of the red-dot's speed and accuracy," Koenig said. "No one doubts them anymore." 

MINI-REFLEX SIGHT MAKERS

TRIJICON RMR TRIJICON.COM
 BUSHNELL FIRST STRIKE BUSHNELL.COM
 LEUPOLD DELTAPoint LEUPOLD.COM
 BURRIS FAST FIRE 3 BURRISOPTICS.COM
 DOCTER SIGHT C DOCTER-GERMANY.DE
 MEOPTA M-RAD MEOPTASPORTSOPTICS.COM
 SIGHT MARK MINI SHOT SIGHTMARK.COM
 VORTEX RAZOR VORTEXOPTICS.COM
 TRUGLO DUAL COLOR OPEN RED DOT
TRUGLO.COM
 EOTECH MRDS EOTECHINC.COM
 JP ENTERPRISES J POINT JPRIFLES.COM
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Safeguarding our

By Laurie A. Luebbert, Managing Editor *America's 1st Freedom*

NRA-backed team trains first class of school security assessors as part of National School Shield program

Not long after Williamson County schoolchildren started their academic year in Tennessee, a dozen or so nontraditional students—all experienced law enforcement officials—were also going back to school.

But this class had a different agenda. These students were participating in a training seminar on ways to keep

officers were able to provide significant qualitative mitigation measures to enhance the school's security environment."

From Theoretical to the Practical

The course covered all the bases, from teaching participants the fundamentals of school security assessments to conducting a live assessment at a local

county has been proactive in stepping up school security ever since Sandy Hook.

"We've really grown our SRO (school resource officer) program since then," said Capt. Alan Laney of the county sheriff's office, adding that the county reassigned an additional 32 officers to various schools, "and Sheriff Jeff Long gave the SRO program a new focus on security."

Before, each school and its SRO were responsible for their individual schools; now, the county is trying for across-the-board uniformity in terms of school security. And having NSS security experts come in to teach gives them an outsider's view of the situation, Laney said.

The pay-off can come pretty soon after the training program, too. Already, the Tennessee folks are preparing to send their newly trained assessors out in force to rate schools. Since all of them are on the same page in terms of approach, that will allow for a consistent end product, Fletcher said.

Maximizing Local Resources

The assessor training program is designed to empower localities to play a more active role in better protecting their children. While outside consultants can be hired to assess a school district, Laney said his county's experience showed that such companies provide generalized overviews of the whole school system. With hands-on assessments done by people with a greater local interest, teams can focus more on individual campuses.

Learn more about how NSS protects schools.
Visit **nationalschoolshield.org**

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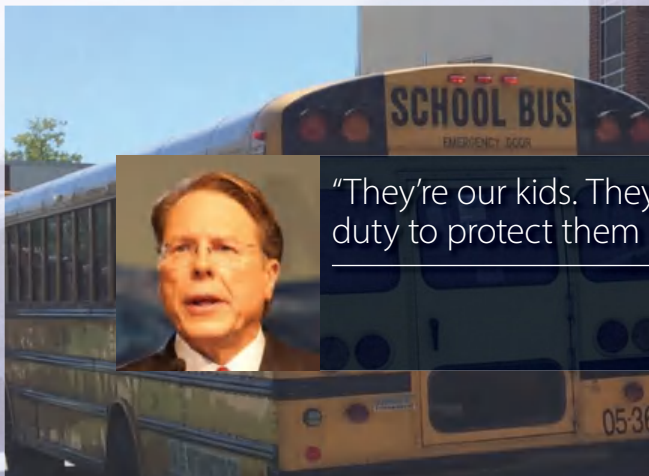
The four-day practicum, taught by an array of security experts, was the first official National School Shield (NSS) security assessor training class. It is one facet of the NSS program set up by the National Rifle Association in the aftermath of the December 2012 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School as one way to keep our children more secure.

"The training program was received with overwhelming success ... with law enforcement officers identifying critical vulnerabilities in the school's security posture," said John Quattrone, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and a security adviser who has been involved in the initiative since its inception. "Additionally, law enforcement

K-12 school. During their walk-through at the school, participants talk to teachers, students and school employees, and they visually inspect the building, all under the guiding eye of security experts who coach them regarding what to ask and how best to verify information that someone gives them about a potential vulnerability.

"I felt the design of the course and the practical exercise was helpful in creating a consistent method of assessing schools. It provided great detail in the ways to organize an assessment that also included how to construct and present feedback to the school," said Michael Fletcher, safety and security director for Williamson County Schools and one of the trainees.

That Williamson County—which encompasses the bucolic horse country south of Nashville—hosted the first assessor training course was no accident. The



"They're our kids. They're our responsibility. And it's not just our duty to protect them – it's our right to protect them."

– Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive Vice President

Children, Investing in our Future



Part of the National School Shield security assessor training program requires students to conduct an on-site security assessment at a school, as this participant is doing.

Additionally, by providing communities direct access to trained assessors, NSS is able to help schools maximize already strained security budgets.

"A lot of the schools do not have the resources. They can go out and get a private firm to do what we are offering to do for them but the assessment alone can cost anywhere from ten to twenty thousand dollars—and to a lot of schools, that is a lot of money. We are doing that for them for practically nothing," said David Keene, past president of the NRA and chairman of the NSS Advisory Council.

Parameters of the Program

One aspect of the training program is that the students learn how to make a persuasive argument to get what they need. "We might know the basics," Laney said, "but now we are learning how to fight for the improvements."

The agenda for the inaugural assessor training course earned praise.

"They now have the ability to conduct an unbiased fact-finding assessment," Quattrone said. "Many of the students commented afterward that, while they were familiar with much of the course material itself, the class gave them ... a keener ability to spot vulnerabilities and recommend appropriately scaled security enhancements."

"Attending the National School Shield training gave me a new skill which I can use to help my community protect

our children. By learning how to spot vulnerabilities, I can help all stakeholders in the safety of our children do our best to protect them. The training not only reminded me of things I had previously learned, but it gave me new resources that I can employ in assessments of any school facility," said Cpl. Michael Johnson of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, a participant in the training.

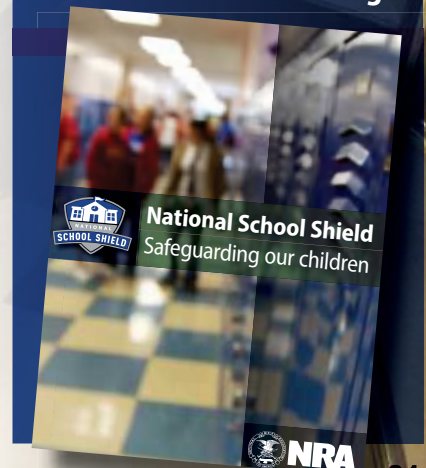
After the students performed their walk-through at the host school, they went back to the classroom and learned how to create an effective presentation that identified strengths and potential vulnerabilities based on industry best practices. Sometimes that can be as simple as having a school maintenance worker fix a door that won't shut and lock easily or having landscapers trim trees so field of vision from inside the building is not obstructed; other times, mitigating the potential vulnerabilities requires more funding—which can be a challenge for cash-strapped districts.

That's another area where the National School Shield program can help, thanks to a grant program designed to support schools that want to make security improvements.

"While the assessment is a cornerstone of the National School Shield program, the grant component is an equally important piece of the puzzle," said Sheila Brantley, NSS program director. "For schools that have identified areas in need of improvement but face a lack of available resources to address security needs, NSS grants fulfilled by The NRA Foundation serve as a vital resource.

"That is what I believe makes the National School Shield program so attractive—by providing tools and resources designed to help schools identify potential security vulnerabilities, as well as the funding to implement necessary security improvements, the program helps remove the barriers to information and/or funding that have previously slowed progress in making our schools more secure. There is nothing more critical to our nation's well-being than our children's safety, and the National School Shield is our commitment to that effort."

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ILA report: Latest legislative news from inside the NRA Institute for Legislative Action

Politifact Flip-Flops to Advocate Anti-Gun Narrative

As we've reported in the past, one of the more favored—yet discredited—claims made by gun control advocates is that 40 percent of firearm transfers take place without a background check. Fact checkers have routinely pointed out numerous problems with the 40 percent statistic, with the *Washington Post's* Glenn Kessler giving Obama three Pinocchios when the president cited the bogus claim back in 2013.

Unfortunately, it now appears that even the fact checkers need fact checkers. Linda Qui, writing for *Politifact*, wrote about the issue after Mark Kelly invoked the 40 percent claim during an Oct. 1 appearance on CNN. In her write-up, Qui rightly points out all the reasons why the 40 percent claim has been repeatedly rebuked by fact-checking organizations in the past, including *Politifact* itself.

The claim is based on a 1994 survey of only 251 people who told researchers they were gun owners. As anyone who has ever read a survey or poll knows, a sample size of 251 is insufficient to draw conclusions about the broader population under study. The researchers then asked of these 251 respondents how they came to have their firearms and whether or not a background check had been conducted.

Even if the sample size had been sufficiently large to represent the broader population, there are obvious problems with this methodology. It doesn't take a statistician to know

that of the 251 respondents, the researchers didn't actually verify whether or not they were actual firearm owners. Further, the researchers also relied on the memory of respondents to describe whether a background check had taken place. Many respondents likely couldn't remember the exact details the researchers were asking about.

More broadly, even if the methodological deficiencies are ignored, it's important to recall that the survey was conducted in 1994 and that the National Instant Criminal Background Check System wasn't operational at the national level until 1998.

Even after recognizing these shortcomings, Qui shifts from an explanation of why the 40 percent claim is bogus to an exploration of all the reasons why it is the "best estimate" available. A litany of anti-gun advocates and researchers are quoted as essentially saying, "We don't have anything else, so this is good enough." For Qui, this somehow equates to bolstering the bogus 40 percent claim's veracity and Qui rates the claim "half true."

Remarkably, this is in direct contradiction to a "fact check" done by *Politifact* earlier in 2015. *Politifact's* Sean Gorman rated the 40 percent claim as "mostly false" when Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine used the statistic during a political speech in April. It appears that neutral "fact checking" has followed "objective" reporting as a thing of the past.

FBI: Crime Decreased in 2014

In October, the FBI reported that the nation's total violent crime rate decreased 0.9 percent from 2013 to 2014. The trend included decreases of 1 percent in murder and 6 percent in robbery, and increases of 2 percent in rape and 1 percent in aggravated assault. The percentage of murders committed with firearms decreased 1.6 percent.


Violent crime peaked in 1991. Through 2014, violent crime fell to a 44-year low, murder fell to likely an all-time low and robbery dropped to a 48-year low. Currently, Americans have acquired nearly half of the roughly 350 million privately owned firearms in the United States.

Comparable to previous years, less than 6 percent of murders involved rifles and shotguns of all types, while knives and other edged weapons were used in 13 percent of murders, hands and feet

in 6 percent, bludgeons in 4 percent and various other non-firearm weapons were used in smaller percentages. Nevertheless, gun control supporters persist in demanding a ban on semi-automatic shotguns and detachable-magazine semi-automatic rifles, particularly America's most popular rifle, the AR-15.

As in previous years, there was no correlation between states' crime rates and trends, and their gun control laws. Some states that have the most restrictive gun control laws had high rates of violent crime, some had low rates; some had worse crime trends, some had better trends; and the same was true for states that have less-restrictive gun laws. Also, as in previous years, the FBI reported that various factors, not including gun ownership rates or gun control laws, determine the type and volume of crime in each state.

Cities accounted for a disproportionate share of violent crime. For example, the murder rate for metropolitan areas was 4.7 per 100,000 residents, as compared to 3.9 for cities outside metropolitan areas, and 3.0 for non-metropolitan counties.

The murder rate in Detroit, which is subject to Michigan's handgun registration law, was nearly 10 times the rate for metropolitan areas generally, at 43.5 per 100,000 residents. The rate in Baltimore, subject to Maryland's handgun registration and waiting period law, and its "assault weapon" and "large" magazine bans, was not far behind, at 33.8. By comparison, the murder rate in Jacksonville, the largest city in Florida, where the Right-to-Carry movement began in 1987, was far behind, at 11.2. Chicago accounted for the most murders of any city, followed by New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. 

LOCASH is



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September 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015
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According to many music insiders, 2015 is shaping up to be the year for LOCASH. Their upbeat, contagious single "I Love This Life" marks their highest-charting single to date. LOCASH continues to build their brand through live performances, with more than 150 this year—including appearances on some of the most prestigious stages in the world with acts ranging from Tim McGraw to Hank Williams Jr., Florida Georgia Line, Miranda Lambert and Kiss. The duo's highly anticipated album, "I Love This Life," is available now.

NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi recently caught up with Chris Lucas and Preston Brust to talk about all things outdoors.

VS: How would you spend a week off in Mother Nature?

PB: "In the mountains with my wife."

VS: Do you have a favorite personal firearm?

CL: "All of my guns are my favorites, but I love my H&K 9 mm the most."

VS: Please share your favorite outdoor memory.

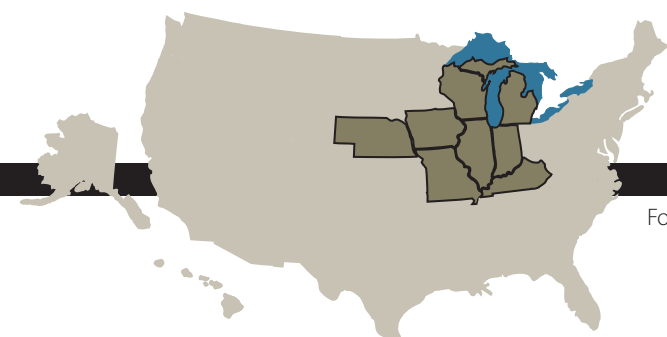
CL: "The Great Turkey Attack of 2009. I had never shot an animal. It was one of my first real hunts, and out of nowhere this turkey came out of the woods after me. He clearly didn't like me very much. I realized he was going to attack me, so I shot it—and that, folks, was my first turkey kill."

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life.

For more information visit nracountry.com, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram and Pinterest.



Photo by Jake Harsh



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This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

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DEC. 8—LAFAYETTE, IN
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Arthur Burk (765) 838-0700

DEC. 12—LAKE VILLA, IL
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Michel Rioux (847) 603-1966

DEC. 16—ANN ARBOR, MI
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Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n Inc.
Jerry Wehner, Executive Vice President
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EFFINGHAM, IL DEC. 19-20

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billb@iasrpa.org

League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.

Tom Mansfield, NRA Liaison
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thomasjmansfield@gmail.com

Michigan Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

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lcebula@hotmail.com

Missouri Sport Shooting Ass'n

Kevin Jamison, President
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kljamisonlaw@earthlink.net

Nebraska Marksmanship Ass'n

Bill Keil, President
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hpinne@cox.net

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges,

Clubs and Educators
Jeff Nass, Executive Director
(920) 687-0505
jeff@wisconsinforce.org

gunshows

DEC. 1 Bayside Supper Club, Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce (920) 887-8879	BEAVER DAM, WI	DEC. 12-13 Gateway Center, ECA Hunting & Trade Shows (618) 495-2572	COLLINSVILLE, IL
DEC. 4-6 Rock Island Auction Company, Rock Island Auction Co. (800) 238-8022	ROCK ISLAND, IL	DEC. 12-13 Elks Lodge, Pro-mo-tions (573) 338-1524	COLUMBIA, MO
DEC. 4-6 Mall of the Bluffs, Pioneer Shows (712) 388-8520	COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA	DEC. 12-13 Lake County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836	CROWN POINT, IN
DEC. 4-6 Jefferson County Fair Park, Marv Kraus Promotions (563) 608-4401	JEFFERSON, WI	DEC. 12-13 Kentucky Exposition Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176 *	LOUISVILLE, KY
DEC. 4-6 Sunnyview Exposition Center, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677	OSHKOSH, WI	DEC. 13 Quality Inn Forwards Conference Center, PJS Promotions LLC (989) 798-8709	WEST BRANCH, MI
DEC. 4-6 National Military History Center, Gun Slinger Promotions USA (260) 624-5996	AUBURN, IN	DEC. 13 Allen Indiana County Fairgrounds, Midwest Gun Traders Inc. (260) 749-6509	FORT WAYNE, IN
DEC. 4-6 Gibraltar Trade Center, Angela Neargarder-Gibraltar Trade Center (586) 465-6400	MOUNT CLEMENS, MI	DEC. 13 Kane County Fairgrounds, Kane County Sportsman's Show (815) 758-2773	ST. CHARLES, IL
DEC. 5-6 Tipton County Fairgrounds, Tipton Gun Shows LLC (765) 675-6886	TIPTON, IN	DEC. 18-20 Adventureland Park, Midwest Arms Collectors LLC (660) 341-7908	ALTOONA, IA
DEC. 5-6 Vanderburgh County 4-H Center, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836	EVANSVILLE, IN	DEC. 18-20 Milwaukee County Sports Complex, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677	FRANKLIN, WI
DEC. 5-6 National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors LLC (812) 521-9367	SEYMOUR, IN	DEC. 18-20 Evansville National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors, LLC (812) 521-9367	EVANSVILLE, IN
DEC. 5-6 El Hasa Shrine Temple, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	ASHLAND, KY	DEC. 19-20 Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836	LAFAYETTE, IN
DEC. 5-6 Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	SPRINGFIELD, MO	DEC. 19-20 The Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	SOMERSET, KY
DEC. 11-13 The Centre Hall, Marv Kraus Promotions (563) 608-4401	WAVERLY, IA	DEC. 19-20 Kankakee County Fairgrounds, The Cloe Group LLC (815) 263-2810	KANKAKEE, IL
DEC. 11-13 Cape Girardeau Arena Park, SEMO Gun Shows (573) 649-2848	CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO	DEC. 19-20 KCI-Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	KANSAS CITY, MO
DEC. 11-13 Waukesha County Expo Center, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677	WAUKESHA, WI	DEC. 20 Holiday Inn Convention Center, DJ Guns (815) 385-1982	CRYSTAL LAKE, IL
DEC. 11-13 Trading Place Auction Building, Gun Slinger Promotions USA (260) 624-5996	SHIPSHAWANA, IN	DEC. 26 Knights of Columbus Hall, PJS Promotions LLC (989) 798-8709	DAVIDSON, MI
		DEC. 27 Antioch VFW Hall, Lake County Gun Shows (847) 548-0433	ANTIOCH, IL



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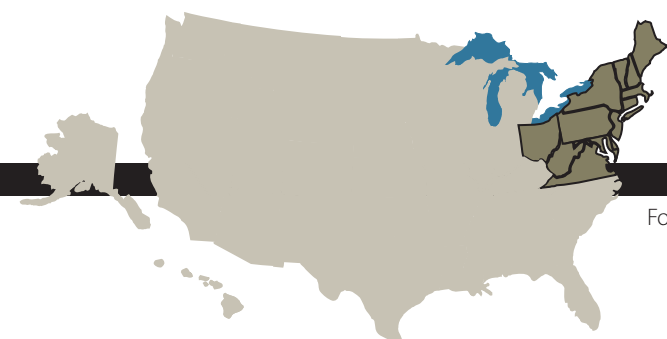


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DEC. 4—MANCHESTER, VT
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Brian Kukon (802) 293-5986

DEC. 6—ALEXANDRIA, VA
(Seminar)
Howard Hall (949) 212-2291

DEC. 6—RANSON, WV
(Seminar)
Dennis Stoika (732) 620-2311

DEC. 11—PEEKSKILL, NY
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Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

DEC. 12—PEEKSKILL, NY
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DEC. 13—ASHAWAY, RI
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DEC. 18—HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY
(Seminar)
Mark Bendel (845) 418-3671

DEC. 19—QUAKERTOWN, PA
(Seminar)
Wayne Downs (610) 754-1185

DEC. 19—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

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HIGH POWER RIFLE
NEW TRIPOLE, PA DEC. 6

SILHOUETTE
STATEN ISLAND, NY DEC. 1
SUFFOLK, VA DEC. 6
MONTPELIER, VA DEC. 12
SUDDLERSVILLE, MD DEC. 19

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DEC. 14—FAIRFAX, VA
(SIG P Series Pistol)

DEC. 15—FAIRFAX, VA
(Active Threat Mitigation)

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gunshows

DEC. 4-6 ALLENTOWN, PA
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DEC. 5-6 LIMA, OH
Allen County Fairgrounds, Tri-State Gun Collectors (419) 647-0067

DEC. 5-6 TALLMADGE, OH
Summit County Fairgrounds, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

DEC. 5-6 ZANESVILLE, OH
Muskingum County Fairgrounds, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

DEC. 5-6 CLARENCE, NY
Clarence Event Building, Niagara Frontier Gun Shows (716) 542-9929

DEC. 5-6 GETTYSBURG, PA
All Star Events Complex, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

DEC. 5-6 NASHUA, NH
Holiday Inn, Northeast Expositions (603) 621-0700

DEC. 5-6 MANASSAS, VA
Prince William County Fairgrounds, SGK Gun Shows (757) 483-5385

DEC. 5-6 FAIRMONT, WV
Marion County National Guard Armory, C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

DEC. 12-13 DAYTON, OH
Dayton Hara Arena, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 12-13 LAKE HARMONY, PA
Split Rock Resort, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

DEC. 12-13 HARRISBURG, PA
PA Farm Show Complex- Expo Hall, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016 *

DEC. 12-13 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA
Eastern State Exposition, Mid-Hudson Promotions Inc. (914) 248-1000

DEC. 12-13 MARIETTA, OH
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DEC. 12-13 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY
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DEC. 12-13 LANCASTER, OH
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DEC. 12-13 MEDINA, OH
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DEC. 12-13 FISHERSVILLE, VA
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DEC. 18-20 OAKS, PA
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DEC. 19-20 SHARONVILLE, OH
Sharonville Convention Center, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 19-20 MONTPELIER, OH
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DEC. 19-20 YORK, PA
York Fairgrounds, Appalachian Promotions (717) 697-3088

DEC. 19-20 CHILICOTHE, OH
Ross County Fairgrounds, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

DEC. 19-20 SALEM, VA
The Salem Civic Center, C&G Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016 *

DEC. 26-27 MONROE, OH
Aisles Flea Market, Patriot Gun & Knife Show (513) 638-8688



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Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3714.

regional report • midwest

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

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FRIENDS OF NRA

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Midwest Region Director—Tom Ulik
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AR—Erica Willard
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CO—Brad Dreier
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NM—Kevin Post
kpost@nrahq.org

OK—Darren DeLong
ddejong@nrahq.org

Northern TX—Terry Free
tfree@nrahq.org

Southern TX—Liz Foley
efoley@nrahq.org

Western TX—Jack Cannon
jcannon@nrahq.org



This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nraistructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 5—COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
(Seminar)
Paul Pucci (719) 332-1949

DEC. 6—COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Paul Pucci (719) 332-1949

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

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PISTOL	
DENVER, CO	DEC. 19
MANOR, TX	DEC. 20
SMALLBORE RIFLE	
PINE BLUFF, AR	DEC. 5
HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 5
HIGH POWER RIFLE	
WICHITA FALLS, TX	DEC. 5
N. LITTLE ROCK, AR	DEC. 5-6
ARCADIA, OK	DEC. 13
HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 13
DONNA, TX	DEC. 13
BRAZORIA, TX	DEC. 19
SILHOUETTE	
MANSFIELD, TX	DEC. 5
BYERS, CO	DEC. 6
EL PASO, TX	DEC. 6
HALTOM CITY, TX	DEC. 12
FRIENDWOOD, TX	DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000
INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
NRA VISA Card (866) NRA-VISA
NRA Real Estate/Relocation Services (800) 593-2526
NRA Endorsed Moving Program
North American Van Lines (800) 524-5533
Allied Van Lines (800) 871-8864

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Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
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EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, appears in every issue of *American Rifleman*, *American Hunter* and *America's 1st Freedom*. The Regional Report is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

gunshows

DEC. 5-6 Kay Rogers Park Expo, Ft. Smith Gun Show (479) 522-0169	FORT SMITH, AR	DEC. 12-13 Jourdanton American Legion, Eagle Outfitters (210) 371-3001	JOURDANTON, TX
DEC. 5-6 Tulsa Fairgrounds, Grand American Arms Shows (405) 612-0223	TULSA, OK	DEC. 12-13 Lakeland Plaza, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	LEWISVILLE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Taylor County Expo, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	ABILENE, TX	DEC. 12-13 Orange County Expo Center, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881	ORANGE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Denver Merchandise Mart, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	DENVER, CO	DEC. 12-13 Harvey Hall Convention Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009	TYLER, TX
DEC. 5-6 Tays Event Center, Western Frontier Gun Shows (575) 430-8681	ALAMOGORDO, NM	DEC. 19-20 Convention Center Northwest Arkansas, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	SPRINGDALE, AR
DEC. 5-6 Aransas Pass Civic Center, Gulf Coast Gun Shows (254) 485-2770	ARANSAS PASS, TX	DEC. 19-20 Denver Merchandise Mart, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	DENVER, CO
DEC. 5-6 Texas Motor Speedway, Dan's Five Star Gun Shows (214) 862-3905	FORT WORTH, TX	DEC. 19-20 Oklahoma State Fair Park, OKC Gun Show Inc. (405) 842-3277	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
DEC. 5-6 Somervell County Expo, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816	GLEN ROSE, TX	DEC. 19-20 Bell County Expo Center, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881	BELTON, TX
DEC. 5-6 NRG Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 489-1741	HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 19-20 SPJST Lodge #180, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816	BURLESON, TX
DEC. 5-6 Legacy Event Center, GGA Productions (817) 659-9249	HUGHES SPRINGS, TX	DEC. 19-20 Burnet Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Wild Weasel Productions (210) 827-6302	BURNET, TX
DEC. 5-6 Big Town Exhibition Hall, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	MESQUITE, TX	DEC. 19-20 Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	FREDERICKSBURG, TX
DEC. 5-6 Pasadena Convention Center, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	PASADENA, TX	DEC. 19-20 Will Rogers Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009	FT. WORTH, TX
DEC. 5-6 San Antonio Events Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	SAN ANTONIO, TX	DEC. 19-20 Grapevine Convention Center, Dan's Five Star Gun Shows (214) 862-3905	GRAPEVINE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center, Texas Collectors Gun Show (940) 692-3766	WICHITA FALLS, TX	DEC. 19-20 McAllen Convention Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	MCALLEN, TX
DEC. 12-13 Freedom Financial Services Expo Center, Gun Shows of the Rockies (563) 927-8176	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	DEC. 19-20 New Braunfels Civic Center, Liberty Gun Shows (512) 774-0486	NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
DEC. 12-13 Kansas Expocentre, US Weapon Collectors (563) 927-8176	TOPEKA, KS	DEC. 19-20 Pasadena Convention Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 489-1741	PASADENA, TX
DEC. 12-13 Expo New Mexico, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	DEC. 19-20 Freeman Coliseum, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	SAN ANTONIO, TX
DEC. 12-13 Washington County Fairgrounds, Badshot Gun Show LLC (405) 503-3665	DEWEY, OK	DEC. 19-20 Schertz Civic Center, Texas Gun Shows (210) 872-7469	SCHERTZ, TX
DEC. 12-13 Oklahoma State Fair Park, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	DEC. 26-27 Oklahoma State Fair Park, Metcalf Gun Shows (918) 272-1119	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
DEC. 12-13 Richard M. Bouchard Regional Fairgrounds, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX		

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FRIENDS OF NRA

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Southern Region Director—Al Hammond
ahammond@nrahq.org

LA—Chad Bowen
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gnewman@nrahq.org

Northern FL—Bret Eldridge
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Southern FL—Tom Knight
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GA—Neely Raper
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Eastern NC—Lloyd Edwards
ledwards@nrahq.org

Western NC—Doug Merrill
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TN—Mike Webb
mwebb@nrahq.org

SC—Freeman Coleman
fcoleman@nrahq.org



This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

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NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS 703-267-1600
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LAW ENFORCEMENT

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DEC. 7-11—FLORENCE, AL

(Select-Fire)

Contact Rudis Amaya at ramaya@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1636.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women

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PISTOL

BLOUNTSTOWN, FL	DEC. 12
JACKSONVILLE, FL	DEC. 20
BROOKSVILLE, FL	DEC. 27

SMALLBORE RIFLE

ORLANDO, FL	DEC. 5
RIDGEVILLE, SC	DEC. 19

HIGH POWER RIFLE

COVINGTON, GA	DEC. 5
DONALDSONVILLE, LA	DEC. 5
SUNRISE, FL	DEC. 5
BELTON, SC	DEC. 6
CHARLOTTE, NC	DEC. 12
LAKELAND, TN	DEC. 12
HOOVER, AL	DEC. 27

SILHOUETTE

HOOVER, AL	DEC. 5
DAWSONVILLE, GA	DEC. 6
NEW HOLLAND, SC	DEC. 12
CHULLUOTA, FL	DEC. 13
ROXBORO, NC	DEC. 19
PEARLINGTON, MS	DEC. 19
BRUNSWICK, GA	DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 5—LAKE PARK, FL
(Seminar)
David D'Eugenio (561) 844-1381

DEC. 19—STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
(Seminar)
Matthew Schwab (678) 260-8318

DEC. 19—STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Matthew Schwab
(678) 260-8318

DEC. 21—FORT MYERS, FL
(Instructor Development Workshop)
W Dean
(239) 357-3437

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlineintraining.org for more information.

gunshows

DEC. 5-6 NASHVILLE, TN
Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 5-6 DOTHAN, AL
National Peanut Festival Facility, Collectors & Shooters Club (334) 322-8818

DEC. 5-6 FAYETTEVILLE, NC
Crown Center, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

DEC. 5-6 DELAND, FL
Volusia County Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 5-6 BROOKSVILLE, FL
Hernando County Fairgrounds, Hernando Club (352) 799-3605

DEC. 5-6 MINNEOLA, FL
Minneola City Hall, New Florida Gun Shows (407) 568-3365

DEC. 5-6 TAMPA, FL
Florida State Fairgrounds, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

DEC. 5-6 GRAY, TN
Appalachian Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 5-6 BOSSIER CITY, LA
Bossier Civic Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 5-6 ATLANTA, GA
Atlanta Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 5-6 MOUNTAIN CITY, GA
Golden Memories Auction House, North Georgia Gun Shows (828) 557-1543

DEC. 5-6 CAPE CORAL, FL
German American Social Club, FBL Venues (239) 223-3370

DEC. 5-6 GREENVILLE, NC
Greenville Convention Center, S&D Show Promotions (252) 745-5647

DEC. 11-13 TUPELO, MS
Tupelo Furniture Market, Tupelo Gun Show (662) 871-3619

DEC. 12-13 EUSTIS, FL
Lake County Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 12-13 GERMANTOWN, TN
Argicenter International, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 12-13 FT. MYERS, FL
Lee Civic Center, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

DEC. 12-13 CHARLOTTE, NC
Metrolina Expo Center, Dixie Gun & Knife Show (919) 781-1287

DEC. 12-13 KNOXVILLE, TN
Chilhowee Park & Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176 *

DEC. 12-13 LAFAYETTE, LA
Lafayette Event Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 12-13 NORCROSS, GA
North Atlanta Trade Center, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867

DEC. 19-20 VALDOSTA, GA
Rainwater Conference Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 19-20 HUNTSVILLE, AL
Cahaba Shrine Center, VPI Gun Shows (256) 381-0506 *

DEC. 19-20 BILOXI, MS
Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 19-20 MARIETTA, GA
Jim Miller Park, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867 *

DEC. 19-20 WEST PALM BEACH, FL
South Florida Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 19-20 RALEIGH, NC
North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

DEC. 19-20 SARASOTA, FL
Robarts Sports Arena, 2 Guys Shows (727) 776-3442

DEC. 19-20 KENNER, LA
Pontchartrain Center, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757



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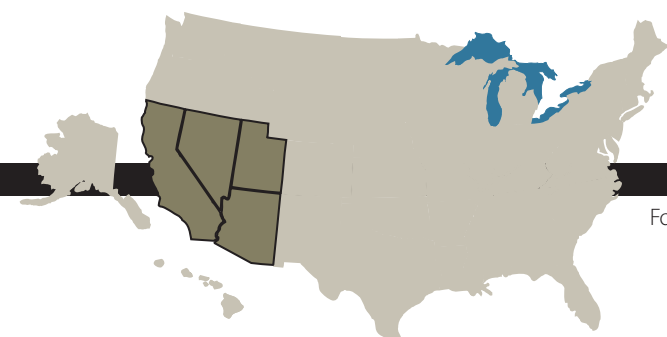


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Southwest Region Director—Jason Quick
jquick@nrahq.org

AZ—Winston Pendleton
wpendleton@nrahq.org

Mid CA—Bob Anderson
randerson@nrahq.org

Central CA—Paul Rodarmel
prodarmel@nrahq.org

Northern CA—Dan Wilhelm
dwilhelm@nrahq.org

Southern CA—Mike Davis
mdavis@nrahq.org

Eastern CA—Cole Beverly
cbeverly@nrahq.org

NV—Steve Wilson
swilson@nrahq.org

UT—John Kendall
jkendall@nrahq.org



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DEC. 5—TEMECULA, CA

(Seminar)
Luis Lopez (888) 892-1767

DEC. 13—SACRAMENTO, CA

(Seminar)
Donnette Larson (916) 844-2486

DECEMBER—ONLINE

(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlineintraining.org for more information.

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PISTOL

SLOUGHHOUSE, CA DEC. 6
OJAI, CA DEC. 6
ESCONDIDO, CA DEC. 13
PHOENIX, AZ DEC. 20
DULZURA, CA DEC. 26

HIGH POWER RIFLE

PHOENIX, AZ DEC. 4-6
ESCONDIDO, CA DEC. 6
YUMA, AZ DEC. 13
BOULDER CITY, NV DEC. 13
LINCOLN, CA DEC. 19
MARICOPA, CA DEC. 20

SILHOUETTE

CUPERTINO, CA DEC. 9
SYLMAR, CA DEC. 12-13
MESA, AZ DEC. 19
CONCORD, CA DEC. 20
PHOENIX, AZ DEC. 20
YUMA, AZ DEC. 26

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.



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DEC. 7-11—LAS VEGAS, NV
(Precision Rifle)

DEC. 7-11—RICHMOND, CA
(Tactical Shotgun)

Mary Shine at mshine@nrahq.org, or
(703) 267-1628.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.

Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
Noble Hathaway, President
(623) 687-4251
president@asrpa.com

California Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
(714) 992-2772
contact@crpa.org

Nevada Firearms Coalition
Don Turner, President
(702) 373-5935
don@nvfac.org

Utah State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
Elwood Powell, President
(801) 499-9763
1dpowell@sisna.com

gunshows

DEC. 4-6 PHOENIX, AZ
Arizona State Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West
Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 5-6 BAKERSFIELD, CA
Kern County Fairgrounds, Central Coast Gun
Shows (805) 481-6726

DEC. 5-6 RED BLUFF, CA
Tehama County Fairgrounds, Phoenix Productions
(530) 360-6896

DEC. 5-6 VALLEJO, CA
Solano County Fairgrounds, Code of the West
Productions (530) 676-8762

DEC. 12-13 KINGMAN, AZ
Mohave County Fairgrounds, High Desert Events
(928) 279-5406

DEC. 12-13 TUCSON, AZ
Tucson Expo, Arizona Gun Radio (650) 520-6002

DEC. 12-13 DEL MAR, CA
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West Gun
Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 12-13 PASO ROBLES, CA
Paso Robles Event Center, Central Coast Gun
Shows (805) 481-6726

DEC. 12-13 LAS VEGAS, NV
The Sport Center, OKC Gun Show Inc.
(405) 842-3277

DEC. 12-13 RENO, NV
Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Crossroads of the
West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 18-19 LAS VEGAS, NV
South Point Casino, Rocky Mountain Gun Shows
(801) 589-0975

DEC. 19-20 PHOENIX, AZ
Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Arizona Gun Radio
(650) 520-6002

DEC. 19-20 PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ
Tim's Toyota Center, Arizona Peacemakers
(520) 747-5709

DEC. 19-20 YUMA, AZ
Yuma Civic Center, Yuma Territorial Gun Shows
(928) 920-0837

DEC. 19-20 ROSEVILLE, CA
Placer County Fairgrounds, Code of the West
Productions (530) 676-8762

DEC. 19-20 VENTURA, CA
Ventura County Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the
West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 19-20 LAS VEGAS, NV
Cashman Field Center, Crossroads of the West Gun
Shows (801) 544-9125

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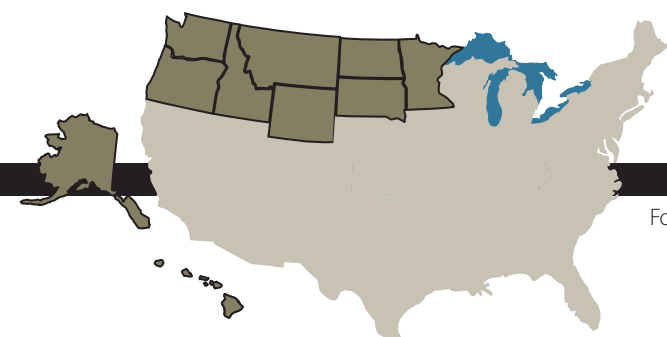
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FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Western Region Director—Brad Kruger
bkruger@nrahq.org

MN—Eric Linder
elinder@nrahq.org

ND, SD—Clay Pederson
cpederson@nrahq.org

Northern AK—Josh Toennessen
jtoennessen@nrahq.org

Southern AK—Greg Stephens
gstephens@nrahq.org

ID—Steve Vreeland
svreeland@nrahq.org

MT—Joe Crismore
jcrismore@nrahq.org

OR, HI—Mike Carey
mcarey@nrahq.org

WA—Michael Herrera
mherrera@nrahq.org

WY—Dave Manzer
dmanzer@nrahq.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

DEC. 19—ARLINGTON, WA
(Approved)

Contact Tiffany King at tking@nrahq.org, or (703) 267-1621.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women

with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DECEMBER—ONLINE

(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.

Alaska Outdoor Council Inc.

Rod Arno, Executive Director
(907) 264-6645
aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Hawaii Rifle Ass'n

Harvey Gerwig, President
(808) 306-7194
hghawaii@gmail.com

Idaho State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Neill Goodfellow, President
(208) 452-0293
president@idahosrpa.org

Member information & benefits

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NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000
INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
**NRA INSTRUCTOR/
COACH FIREARM TRAINING** 703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
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RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
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SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

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PISTOL

BOISE, ID DEC. 19-20

SILHOUETTE

BOISE, ID DEC. 5
SHERWOOD, OR DEC. 5
PUYALLUP, WA DEC. 13
SNOHOMISH, WA DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Minnesota Rifle and Revolver Ass'n Inc.

George Minerich, President
(320) 968-6898
mrrapresident@gmail.com

Montana Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Jamey Williams, President
(406) 868-4181
jameydan@gmail.com

North Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Eric Pueppke, Executive Officer
(701) 967-8450
Cpueppke@polarcomm.com

Oregon State Shooting Ass'n

Nelson Shew, President
(541) 409-3358
bnsheiw@centurylink.net

Washington State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n Inc.

Duane Hatch, Vice President
(253) 853-7533
vicepresident@wsrpa.org

Wyoming State Shooting Ass'n Inc.

Mark Spungin, President
(307) 335-9323
mspungin@ymail.com

South Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Tom Raines, President
(605) 428-5488
tom@sdsshootingsports.org

gunshows

DEC. 4-6 HAMILTON, MT

Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Sports Connection
(406) 633-9333

DEC. 4-6 KALISPELL, MT

Flathead County Fairgrounds, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005

DEC. 5-6 CANBY, OR

Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Collectors West
(800) 659-3440

DEC. 5-6 KLAMATH FALLS, OR

Klamath County Fairgrounds, Jefferson State Shooting Association (541) 880-3870

DEC. 5-6 MONROE, WA

Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

DEC. 5-6 SPOKANE, WA

Spokane County Fair & Expo, Lewis Clark Trader
(208) 746-5555

DEC. 11-13 BOZEMAN, MT

Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Weapons Collector Society of Montana (406) 580-5458

DEC. 12 VANCOUVER, WA

Clark County Square Dance Center, Arms Collectors of Southwest Washington (360) 263-7511

DEC. 12-13 COEUR D'ALENE, ID

Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Sports Connection
(406) 633-9333

DEC. 12-13 DICKINSON, ND

Astoria Hotel & Event Center, Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association (701) 361-9215

DEC. 12-13 GRANTS PASS, OR

Josephine County Fairgrounds, Collectors West
(800) 659-3440

DEC. 12-13 RICKREALL, OR

Rickreall Fairgrounds & Events Center, Polk County Fairgrounds & Events Center (503) 623-3048

DEC. 12-13 BURLINGTON, WA

American Legion Post #91, Falcon Gun Shows
(360) 202-7336

DEC. 12-13 CENTRALIA, WA

SouthWest Washington Fairgrounds, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564

DEC. 12-13 PUYALLUP, WA

Western Washington Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

DEC. 12-13 TACOMA, WA

Marymount Event Center, Big Top Promotions
(206) 753-7956

DEC. 12-13 ST. PAUL, MN

St. Paul River Centre, Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association (612) 721-8976

DEC. 18-20 PORTLAND, OR

Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, Collectors West (800) 659-3440

DEC. 18-20 CASPER, WY

Central Wyoming Fairgrounds, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005

DEC. 19-20 POST FALLS, ID

Greyhound Park & Event Center, Lewis Clark Trader
(208) 746-5555

DEC. 19-20 BRAINERD, MN

Brainerd National Guard Armory Building, Russ Bowers Gun Shows (218) 845-2530

DEC. 19-20 DULUTH, MN

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Greysolon Arms (218) 724-8387

DEC. 19-20 MEDFORD, OR

Medford Armory, Wes Knodel Gun Shows
(503) 363-9564

DEC. 19-20 RIDGEFIELD, WA

Clark County Event Center, Big Top Promotions
(206) 753-7956

DEC. 19-20 TACOMA, WA

Tacoma Dome, Wes Knodel Gun Shows
(503) 363-9564

DEC. 20 PORTLAND, OR

Jackson Armory, Oregon Arms Collectors
oregonarmscollectors.com



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programs & services

"America's Rifle" Exhibit Opens at National Firearms Museum

The National Firearms Museum proudly announces the opening of *America's Rifle*, a new exhibit that examines the evolution and popularity of AR-pattern modern sporting rifles.

The exhibit follows the history of AR-pattern rifles from their development to their uses today in competition, hunting, recreational shooting and personal defense. Featuring more than a dozen rifles, *America's Rifle* highlights influential predecessors like the M14, G3, FN-FAL and AK-47.

This educational exhibit illustrates the significant differences between the select-fire military-type rifles capable of full-automatic and the semi-automatic AR-pattern sporting rifles owned by millions of civilians.



"*America's Rifle* explores the advancements in firearms technology that paved the way for this rifle to be so safe, reliable and adaptable to almost any situation," said NRA Museums Director Jim Supica.

America's Rifle will be on exhibit in the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va., until July 2016.

Photo by Andrew Dalton

woman's outlook

NRA Announces 2015 Women's Awards Recipients

The National Rifle Association recently selected the recipients of its 2015 Women's Awards, which recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation of the Second Amendment and the shooting sports through education, advocacy and volunteerism.

Carolyn Meadows of Marietta, Ga., received the 2015 Sybil Ludington Women's Freedom Award. The award, first given in 1995 and named for a heroine of the American Revolution, recognizes women who have demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to preserving the Second Amendment on the national stage and advancing the goals of the

NRA through volunteerism and legislative activism.

Meadows, an active member of the NRA Board of Directors since 2003, is an experienced political leader whose effective lobbying of U.S. and Georgia legislators has been felt both locally and nationally. A passionate shooter and hunter, Meadows also volunteers her time to arrange gun safety courses, including the annual Jett Williams Law Enforcement Shootout and the Lockheed-Martin Gun Club.

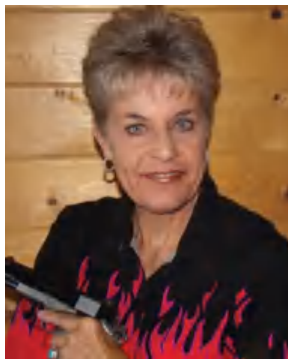
The 2015 Marion P. Hammer Woman of Distinction Award, named after the first woman president of the NRA, went

to **Linda Gilbertson** of Concho, Ariz. Created in 2004, the award is presented to women who, like Hammer, exemplify activism and influence many in their fight to preserve Second Amendment freedoms.

Gilbertson, a former Oregon state police officer and U.S. Treasury Department Special Agent, has volunteered countless hours as an NRA Certified Instructor to help women become comfortable and confident with firearms. Along with her husband, Gilbertson co-hosts "The Gun Locker," a weekly radio show that explores firearm-related topics. She also has cofounded several gun clubs and worked as a pistol instructor at the NRA Women's Wilderness Escape.

"Carolyn Meadows and Linda Gilbertson are two remarkable women who have helped so many people discover the fun of safe firearm ownership and usage," said Executive Director of NRA General Operations Kyle Weaver. "We are so grateful for their contributions to the Second Amendment, and the lasting impact of their volunteerism will be felt for generations to come."

To learn more about the Women's Awards and other programs for women offered by the NRA, visit women.nra.org or call (800) 861-1166.



Linda Gilbertson, of Concho, Ariz., shown teaching some women about proper handling of a firearm, received the 2015 Marion P. Hammer Woman of Distinction Award. She and her husband also co-host "The Gun Locker," a weekly radio show on firearm-related topics.

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Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. has pledged to donate \$2 for each new Ruger® firearm sold

between the 2015 and 2016 NRA Annual Meetings, with the goal of giving \$4,000,000. Ruger's donation will benefit the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). Established in 1975, NRA-ILA is committed to preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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THE THOMPSON

continued from p. 62



Donald Bateman Hope Coates, shown here firing an M1921 Thompson submachine gun on a trip to Mexico in the 1950s, claimed to be the first man ever fired at by someone armed with a Thompson. However, in his initial report, he said that someone who was armed with a "select-fire M1911 Colt pistol" had shot at him.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Coates

it in his tale. The leader of this effort, Michael Fitzpatrick, recalled years later in *Dublin's Fighting Story, 1916-21, By The Men Who Made It* that, after the battle, the "British reported that they had captured ... a machine gun, [but] this was propaganda, as we had no ... machine gun." In reality, there were, at the time, at least two TSMGs available to the IRA for operational use in Dublin, and in the hands of two men who knew how to use them.

The interesting point is that James Dineen was not only a former U.S. Army officer, but a detective sergeant and firearm instructor with the Chicago police force when he took leave to deliver the Tommy guns to the IRA. According to all whom he taught, Dineen was well-versed in all types of firearms. There are very few known examples of select-fire M1911s, and the two most famous ones were those converted by Hyman Lebman in the 1930s for John Dillinger and "Baby Face" Nelson—both gangsters in Chicago.

Given the incredible rarity of the arms, and the coincidence of their discovery by Coates in Dublin, could the pistols described by Coates have belonged to Dineen? Of anyone at that time in Dublin, Dineen would have been the most likely person to have access to such pistols. Moreover, Dineen was a recognized marksman and arms expert. Could it have been with those two pistols that someone (most likely Dineen) had opened fire on Coates that night, instead of a Thompson gun, as Coates later assumed? Or, was it indeed one of the Tommy guns that were later used in the Drumcondra ambush that had been fired at him? Fearing detection and exposure by the discovery of his distinctive and unusual pistols, could Dineen

have actually targeted Coates? We will probably never know the answers to these queries.

Worse yet, after an exhaustive search of the British National Archives (former Public Records Office) in London, neither Coates' alleged report, nor the supposed British report about the captured machine gun can be found. As of June 11, 1921, there is a list of rifles, shotguns and handguns (presumably including semi-automatic pistols) that the British forces had captured from the IRA during the previous six months in Ireland, but there are no machine guns listed. The IRA was not even keeping detailed records of its membership, much less of its arms, during those chaotic times, so there is little likelihood that there are any extant records in Irish archives that would confirm the story.

Because of these conflicting accounts, and the possibility that it may have been select-fire .45 pistols, and not submachine guns, being fired on the night of June 9, 1921, there is no way to verify that anyone was firing a TSMG at anyone else in Ireland, prior to the Drumcondra ambush. At any rate, the West Virginia State Police used Thompson guns to "sprinkle the mountainside" while firing at armed striking coal miners at Lick Creek on June 13, 1921, fighting a running gun battle with the miners (which resulted in the death of one miner) some three days before the attack in Dublin at Drumcondra railway station (see "Guns of the Battle of Blair Mountain," March 2014, p. 64; americanrifelman.org/blair). That means the first documented use of the Thompson gun in combat was not in Ireland, but in the hills of West Virginia.

continued on p. 95

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THE THOMPSON

continued from p. 88

POSTSCRIPT: Both Dineen and Cronin returned to the United States after serving in the army of the Irish Free State during the 1922-23 Irish Civil War, and after a few years, Dineen rejoined the Chicago police department, serving on the force until the mid-1930s. According to a descendant, James Dineen maintained his keen interest in firearms throughout later life. Donald Coates led a fascinating life and he, too, continued to be involved in firearms. (For more on that, see "The Pistolero," americanrifleman.org/pistolero.)

The author thanks Kirk Kellogg, Fernande Ingram, Stephen M. Smith, Michael Parker, Stephen Wood, Michael Curran, David Grant, Allan Cors, Thomas Nelson, Robert McDonough, Brian McCleaf, Joseph Dineen, Deborah Jann, and Ashley Coates for their wholehearted and enthusiastic assistance in investigating this story.

The "Auxies" were armed with revolvers and rifles, and sometimes, as shown here, with Model 1897 Winchester riot shotguns.

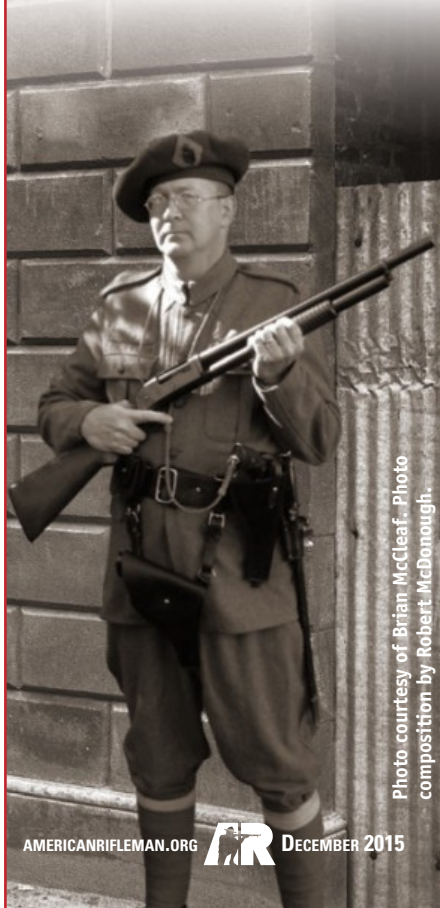


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WHITWORTH RIFLE



GUN: WHITWORTH MILITARY TARGET RIFLE
MANUFACTURER: WHITWORTH RIFLE CO., MANCHESTER, ENGLAND
CONDITION: NRA EXCELLENT (ANTIQUE GUN STANDARDS)
MANUFACTURED: 1863
VALUE: \$6,500



Ask the average Civil War buff to name a Yankee or Confederate sharpshooter's rifle and invariably the answer is "the Whitworth." To be fair, the Whitworth probably wasn't the most widely used long-range rifle during the War Between the States, but it was certainly one of the best and most sought-after by combatants on both sides.

Designed by eminent English engineer Joseph Whitworth in response to a British Board of Ordnance desire for a universal rifle with which to equip its troops, his unique, smallbore (.451), hexagonal-bored longarm, with a pitch of one turn in 20", fired a proprietary 530-gr., six-sided projectile that fit mechanically within the grooves.

Several thousand were built for trials as early as 1858. Pitted against the issue .577 Pattern 1853 Enfield, the Whitworth showed promise, and different styles were ultimately tried. The gun performed extremely well accuracy-wise, especially at longer ranges. Within 500 yds. the Enfield and Whitworth were considered equals—past that range, the Whitworth excelled. But extreme bore fouling by blackpowder residue, the expense of building the guns and the increasing popularity of breechloaders eliminated the possibility of government contracts.

Meanwhile, Whitworth rifles had been eagerly accepted by target shooters, and a number of different models were produced by Whitworth's firm. The guns employed a variety of open sights, as well as sophisticated telescopic sights developed by David Davidson.

It didn't take long to discover that conical bullets fired in Whitworths, because of set-back, provided accuracy as good as hexagonal rounds, and subsequently the two types were used interchangeably.

Whitworth's rifle received a considerable boost when, in 1860, Queen Victoria opened the new Wimbledon target

ranges by pulling a silk cord attached to the trigger of a pre-sighted and machine-rested Whitworth rifle, hitting an iron target just off-center at 400 yds. Most shooters agreed that, because of its accuracy, the Whitworth had an effective range of between 800 and 1,000 yds.—a long shot indeed by the standards of the day.

Whitworths were prized sharpshooter arms during the Civil War, some numbers of them being run through the blockade by the rebels and selectively issued. The most common Confederate guns were marked "2nd QUALITY." This did not mean they were inferior to other Whitworths, but that they had simpler sights, were less complex and employed Enfield-pattern locks without external slide-on safeties. They featured 33" barrels and checkered fore-ends and wrists. Other styles with Davidson scopes were also occasionally seen in the southern ranks.

Probably the most famous Whitworth shot occurred during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 9, 1864, when Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick and his staff became the targets of Confederate sharpshooters at a distance later estimated to be between 500 and 1,000 yds. After admonishing his subordinates for ducking—"I'm ashamed of you dodging that way. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance"—a Whitworth bullet struck him in the head, just below his left eye. He was the most senior Union officer killed during the war.

The rifle shown here is a superb-condition, military-style, target model with two bands and a 33" barrel. The rear sight is a ladder-style graduated to 1,200 yds., and the front is a very sophisticated, adjustable-style post-and-globe. Possessed of a pristine bore, it also has a scraper ramrod with swiveling head to help clear fouling between shots. Because of its condition, style and features, the gun is worth \$6,500.

—GARRY JAMES



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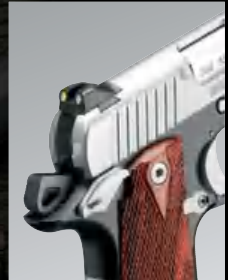
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